STARS STRIPES.



Construction gives bases on Guam a permanent feel

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SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2005



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Wounded reservists decry poor health care

Congress told of treatment opportunities delayed, denied Page 5





COMING SOON



Scene on Sunday

Table tennis bounces back



Tommy Lee Jones is 'Man of the House'

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

R.I. nightclub fire: The families of four nightclub employees killed in the 2003 West Warwick, R.I., fire are asking a judge to order the club's owners

to pay death benefits and lost wages.
Jeffrey and Michael Derderian, owners of
The Station nightclub, did not have workers'
compensation insurance when their club
burned to the ground.

The Station fire, sparked by a rock band's pyrotechnics, killed 100 people and injured more than 200 others on Feb. 20, 2003.

Hunting bin Laden claim: A man who told authorities in Detroit that he was headed to Syria to try to collect a \$25 million bounty on Osama bin Laden faces charges of attempting to smuggle more than \$13,000, a Taser stun device, ammunition and radiation detectors.

Mihsen was indicted on charges of making false statements to federal investigators, trying to smuggle bulk cash out of the United States and attempting to export money and goods to Syria without a permit.

Secret Bush tapes: Tapes of President Bush that were secretly recorded by an old friend and released to the media now are in the possession of the president's private attorney, the White House said Tuesday.

Doug Wead allowed journalists to hear and broadcast the tapes as he promoted his new book on presidential parents. But he said last week he had regrets about that and was turning the tapes over to Bush and giving the proceeds from his book to charity.

World

Pope's health: Pope John Paul II is "progressively improving" and following church activities daily, the Vatican said Thursday, suggesting he might be released from the hospital in time for Easter celebrations on March 27.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the wound on John Paul's throat after surgery to insert a breathing tube was healing.

World Bank leadership: World Bank President James Wolfensohn said Thursday that U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was no longer in the running to head the Washington-based international financial institution.

The New York Times reported early this week that Wolfowitz was under serious consideration to become the next president of the World Bank, which will be open when



Pakistan gang rape: Mukhtar Mai, victim of a gang rape, sheds fears Thursday after a court's decision in Mukhtar, Pakistan, that overturned the conviction of a village elder and four other men. The men had been sentenced to death for allegedly ordering the rape as punishment for her brother's illicit sex with a woman from another family. A sixth man's death sentence was reduced to life in prison, said Ramzan Joya, Mai's lawyer.

Wolfensohn leaves June 1 after two five-year terms.

Space station supplies: A Russian cargo ship carrying food, equipment and other supplies docked successfully with the international space station Wednesday, an official said

The unmanned Progress M-52 spacecraft had lifted from the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Monday, carrying about 2.75 tons of food, water, fuel and research equipment for Russian cosmonaut Salizhan Sharipov and U.S. astronaut Ieroy Chiao.

Charges against al-Zarqawi: Jordan charged Iraq insurgency leader Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi and another Jordanian militant Wednesday with carrying out an August 2003 attack on its Baghdad embassy that killed 18 people.

Both al-Zarqawi and Muammar Ahmed Yousef al-Jaghbeer have already been convicted and sentenced to death in Jordan for other terror attacks.

North Korea nuclear dispute: North Korea should present any new demands it has for abandoning its nuclear weapons program but only within the framework of the stalled six-party talks, the top U.S. negotiator for those talks said Thursday.

"I would say we are very much ready" for the talks, media reports quoted U.S. Ambasador to South Korea Christopher Hill as saying at an Asian Leadership Conference discussion panel in Seoul. "But the question is, do they really want to stay out of the only process which is going forward and build a nuclear program that really has no use?"

Hill repeated the long-standing statement that the United States has "absolutely no intention" of invading North Korea.

The North repeatedly has claimed it developed nuclear weapons only as a "deterrent force" against U.S. aggression.

War on terrorism

Daniel Pearl slaying: A court in Pakistan on Thursday turned over an Islamic militant for police questioning over the killing of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl and two failed assassination attempts against President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, police said.

The suspect, Mohammed Sohail, was arrested in Karachi on Wednesday after a shootout with police.

tories and photo from staff and wire reports

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Navy, AF plan more construction on Guam

Stars and Strines

President Bush's recently drafted defense budget for fiscal 2006, which begins in October, included a number of Navy and Air Force construction projects to con tinue a building trend at the Air Force and Navy bases on Guam.

Pacific Air Forces Commander Gen. Paul V. Hester told Stars and Stripes last Saturday that Guam has been "for nearly three decades or so in a semi-caretaker sta tus. ... Now, we are planning for some permanency.

U.S. forces continue moving personnel and equipment to the U.S. territory, including several submarines and possibly an aircraft carrier

In fiscal 2004, construction began on a number of projects, including renovation of the first of several Navy wharfs. Those projects, as well as several quality-of-life improvements, continue this year, includ-ing a new Department of Defense Dependents Schools high school at U.S. Naval Base Guam and an Army and Air Force Exchange Service complex at Andersen Air Force Base

The plans and anticipated spending for fiscal 2006 are a long way from set in stone, military leaders caution. Congress must approve the budget before it goes into effect.

projects include

■ Upgrades and improvements to Alpha and Bravo wharfs at Polaris Point, where submarines are docked

A new middle school and elementary school on U.S. Naval Base Guam at Lock wood Housing. The new schools would join the current middle and elementary school at Apra Housing off base

■ A new hardened electrical system across the base to guard against typhoon

Air Force officials could not provide a list of their proposed projects by deadline. The Navy projects for fiscal 2005, the current year, include:

■ Renovating the Fena Reservoir ■ Upgrading the waterfront, including

Kilo Wharf. ■ Building a Navy training facility to

train mobile security squadrons.

Air Force 2005 projects include building a storage facility at Andersen Air Force Base and a new DODDS high school to be

built by Navy engineers The development is a boon for Guam residents. Interior Department economists report that military spending, along with tourism, are the two main growth engines for the island.

About 12,000 military personnel are stationed on Guam, home to 166,000 residents, according to a 2004 census report.

Roughead tapped to lead Navy's Pacific Fleet

BY JON R. ANDERSON Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - Vice Adm. Gary Roughead has been given the nod to pin on a fourth star and take over the Navy's Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Ha-

No stranger to the island, Roughead is currently the deputy commander of the U.S. Pacific Command - Pacific Fleet's joint headquarters - in nearby Hono-

lulu. Nominated by the White House on Thursday. Roughead's new assignment is nending Senate confirmation. If approved, he'll take over



from Adm. Walter Doran, who's held the post since May 4, 2002

The Pacific Fleet is one of the Navy's largest commands, responsible for 191,000 sailors and Marines operating aboard 190 ships and submarines, 1,400 aircraft and bases scattered across 102 million square miles.

A 1973 Naval Academy graduate, Roughead rose up the ranks as a surface warfare officer. Sea commands have included the guided-missile destroyer Barry and the cruiser Port Royal, Cruiser Destroyer Group Two and the Washington Battle Group. Most recently he led the 2nd Fleet in Norfolk, Va., before his latest assignment in Hawaii.

Also announced Thursday, Rear Adm. Barry M. Costello has been nominated to take over 3rd Fleet in San Diego, Calif. If approved by the Senate, he'll pin on his third star and relieve Vice Adm. Michael J. McCabe. Costello is the Navy's chief of legislative affairs at the Pentagon.

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at jon.anderson@stripes.osd.mi

Scouts turn golf balls into dimes

Find is lost treasure for course at Atsugi

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

On a recent chilly morning, about a dozen motivated Boy Scouts scoured a hillside beyond the Naval Air Facility Atsugi golf course driving range and unearthed a gold mine: 15,848 golf balls, for which they earned 10 cents a non

The three-hour scavenger hunt last Saturday, conducted by 13 boys from Atsugi's Troop 22 and the Latter Day Saints Troop 31 from nearby Sagami Depot Army post, earned the Scouts about \$1,600 in Morale, Welfare and Recreation bucks and saved the golf course \$6,700.

"We didn't think it'd be such a big deal," said Navy Lt. Russell Hale, chaplain for the base chapel and the unit commissioner for Atsugi's two Scout groups, a Boy Scout troop and Cub Scout pack

"We always have a need to pick up golf balls on the golf course," said Paul Hahn, golf course manager. "It was a win-win-win. It saved the golf course over \$6,000. Now I don't have to go out and buy new golf

The boys, ranging in age from 11 to 16, pulled many of the balls from the dirt on a hill beyond the net, past the driving range, where balls disappear after being launched by powerful hit-

Newsletter mailing stops

Site on Kwaialein Atoll has ceased mailing

paper copies of its newsletter, the Kwajalein

The mailing was stopped as part of cost-sav-

ing efforts, according to a release from the

command. The newsletter still can be read on-



Naval Air Facility Atsugi's Troop 22 Boy Scouts pose with thousands of golf balls they collected last Saturday. Morale, Welfare and Recreation paid 10 cents for each ball. After searching for three hours, the boys from Atsugi and the Latter Day Saints Troop 31 from Sagami Depot collected almost 16,000 balls.

Hahn said sailors often spend weeks at sea working out. They return to Atsugi with stron arms and powerful drives, propelling balls beyond the range and over the net into loose soil, which is shrouded by shrubs and dehris Ralls could have been there for a long time, he said.

"You just stick your hands into the dirt and pull up six or seven balls at a time, even if you didn't see any on the surface." Hale

The retrieved golf balls piled up so quickly the golf course ran out of space to contain them. Staff started piling balls onto

travs "We ran out of travs. We start-

hourglass.html.

ed filling buckets," Hale said. The boys eventually collected about 1,220 balls apiece.

"I was delightfully surprised," Hahn said. "We have a beautiful inventory of balls for the sum-Plans for the project began last

November at the Annual Scout Golf Tournament. Golf course personnel suggested collecting balls as a way to raise money for the Scouts. They anticipated collecting a few thousand at most.

The Scouts were offered 10 cents a ball, the industry stan-dard. Hale didn't tell the boys about the money at first. It was geared to be community-relations project. But it didn't take money to motivate the Scouts, he

"Being told to go dig in dirt and roll around in the grass they loved it," Hale said.

The money was a boon. The Scouts can use it to buy starter golf club sets and pay for lessons to sharpen their game. Or. they could rent a bus to ferry them to the Scout summer camp planned this year at Misawa Air Base in northern Japan.

The project was such a success, and so many balls remain Hale and Hahn hope to repeat the event next year.

"It's a good deal for everybody," Hahn said.

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@pstripes.osd.mil

The U.S. Army public affairs office at the New commander at Misawa Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test

NAVAL AIR FACILITY MISAWA, Japan Rear Adm. Arthur J. Johnson Jr. will re-place Rear Adm. Kenneth W. Deutsch as commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance 5th/7th Fleet at NAF Misawa, the Defense Department announced in a news release this week

line at: www.smdc.armv.mil/kwai/hourglass/

Johnson now is U.S. Pacific Command renresentative. Guam/Commander. U.S. Naval

Deutsch is being assigned as commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group in Norfolk,

Rear Adm. Charles J. Leidig, commandant of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., has been tapped to replace Johnson on Guam. From staff reports

Study shows Army's black enlistments drop

Number of African-American volunteers falls 41 percent since 2000

Special to Stars and Stripes

he Army's wartime recruiting challenge is aggravated by a sharp drop in black enlistments over the last four years, which internal Army and De-fense Department polls trace to an unpopular war in Iraq and concerns among blacks with Bush administra-

The Army is straining to meet recruiting goals in part because the number of black volunteers has fallen 41 percent — from 23.5 percent of recruits in fiscal 2000 down steadily to 13.9 percent in the first four months of fiscal

It's alarming," said Mai, Gen, Michael D, Rochelle, commanding general of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command in Fort Knox, Ky

No single factor explains the drop, Rochelle said, but clearly the propensity of black youth to enlist is impacted by the war and increasingly by views of parents, teachers, coaches, clergy and other "influencers."

"The influencers of these youth are causing them to be less inclined to listen to what good the Army could do for them in the long run," said Rochelle, one of the Army's most senior black officers.

Officer recruiting is hit, too. Black enrollment in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps program is down 36 percent since 2001.

The Marine Corps also reports a drop in black recruits but its racial data on recruits is now suspect due to a government policy, effective Jan. 1, 2003, that allows recruits and all new federal workers to decline to identify their race. The Army has found a way to continue to track accurately its racial data, said S. Douglas Smith, spokesman for the recruiting command.

Rep. Charles B. Rangel, a Democrat whose New York City district includes Harlem, said he isn't too surprised

by the Army recruiting data.

"I have not found a black person in support of this war in my district," he said. "The fact that every member of the Congressional Black Caucus emotionally, politically and vigorously opposes this war is an indication of what black folks think throughout this country."

Rangel also said there was "overwhelming disappoint-ment" among blacks after Bush, in a disputed election, became president in 2001, and the disappointment "plum-meted after he declared war in Iraq."

Results of the Defense Department's own Youth and Influencer Polls, conducted last May, affirm that administration policies and the Iraq war have lowered the propensity of black youth to enlist, particularly in the Army and Marine Corps, the ground forces taking most of the casualties.

While the war reduced the likelihood of youth in general to join the military, says the Youth Poll report, "Black youth reported being more negatively affected Black youth were less supportive of U.S. troops' presence in Iran less likely to feel the war was justified, more disapproving of the Bush administration's handling of foreign affairs and more disapproving of its use of U.S. military forces than were whites or Hispanics."

Black youth unemployment remains above 10 percent, higher than for Hispanics and double that of whites. Blacks also tend to view military pay as more attractive



PFC Garfield Thompson, left, and a colleague run for cover as an Abrams tank fires into the Kuwaiti desert during live fire training on Jan. 31, 2003. There is a new urgency among soldiers of the U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, Charlie Company, as it trains just south of the Iraqi border.

In years past, such factors enticed a disproportionate number of African-American youth to see opportunity in the Army. In some years since the draft ended in 1973, the percentage of blacks among Army volunteers approached 30 nercent

In fiscal 2000, blacks still represented almost a quarter of Army recruits. That percentage fell to 22.7 in 2001, 19.9 in '02, 16.4 in '03, 15.9 in '04, and now to 13.9 percent through four months of fiscal 2005. No such decline has been seen among Hispanics or white recruits. Indeed, their percentages among Army recruits grew during the first Bush administration.

Because blacks are 14 percent of all recruit-age youth, their recruiting numbers remain "acceptable," said Rochelle, proportional to blacks in society. But the steep drop in black recruits overall does hurt plans "to grow the Army he conceded. Congress has ordered a 30,000 increase in the number of active-duty soldiers by October 2007.

Rangel said many blacks still are enticed into service by benefits and cash incentives, which are rising sharply

"It has amazed me that, not withstanding the general feeling of the community, they still have enlisted and fought. When my [Guard and Reserve] outfits come home, these guys get their medals and they're proud. But when I'm called up [to speak], they cheer and stomp their feet, knowing that I fought against the war. It's inconsistent as hell.

er Army-directed poll, the U.S. Military Ima Study, is posted on a Defense Contracting Command Web site, likely by mistake. Based on interviews with 3,236 youth ages 16 to 24, this study says, "Recruiting an all-volunteer Army in times of war is increasingly difficult."

While money for college remains a major motivator to enlist, the Iraq war leaves youth, particularly blacks, con-

"More African-Americans identify having to fight for a cause they don't support as a barrier to military service," the study found.

Fear of being killed or injured was the top reason to avoid service for 26 percent of youth in 2004, almost double the 14 percent reported in 2000.

Army and Army Reserve miss February recruitment goal

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - For the first time in almost five years, the active-duty Army missed its monthly recruiting goal in February, a failure directly related to public concerns about the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, an Army recruiting offi cial said

The Army Reserve also missed its goals in February, for the second month in a

"People are watching the news," said Doug Smith, a spokesman for U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox in Kentucky. "They know the risks of military service in today's environment."

Army recruiters were told to bring 7,050 new soldiers into the fold in February Instead, the recruiters found only 5,114 people willing to join the active Army. In the Army Reserve, the recruiting goal

for the month was 1,320, but only 990 new reservists joined the service. January's recruiting goal for the Army Reserve was also missed, marking the first

monthly shortfall for the component since September 2003, Smith said. Fort Knox does not keep recruiting statistics for the Army National Guard. Recruit-ing for the Guard is the responsibility of

each state component, which sets its own goal numbers. For the Army and Army Reserve, the February shortfalls leave both components short for the fiscal year, as well.

The Army's goal for recruiting active-duty soldiers for fiscal 2005, which began on Oct. 1, is 80,000. By the end of February, the component was supposed to have recruited 27,362 of those soldiers. But the Army missed that goal by 1,823 sol-

The goal for the Army Reserve is 22.175. By the end of February, the component was supposed to have recruited 5.587 of those soldiers. But the Army Reserve missed that goal by 643 soldiers.

Although Smith said Army officials are "keeping a close eye" on the recruiting results for the year, he said recruiters still believe they can make up the shortfalls by the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30.

"Missing a month is not necessarily miss-

ng a year," Smith said.

Nevertheless, "We knew it was going to be a difficult year," Smith said.

For the first time since 2001, the active Army began fiscal 2005 with far fewer recruits in the Delayed Entry Program, which allows newly joined members to wait for up to a year before reporting for boot camp.

Army recruiters prefer to begin the fiscal year with 25 to 35 percent of their new yearly goal "banked" under the delayed entry status, Smith said.

But as of Oct. 1, 2004, when the govern-ment's fiscal 2005 began, the Army only had 18 percent of its 2005 goal total in the program, he said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

J

Injured reservists decry poor medical treatment

Military officials admit imbalance with active duty

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripe

WASHINGTON - Petty officer Anthony Cuomo believes if he were an active-duty sailor, the Navy would have already taken care of the shoulder inju ry he suffered while training in Iraq

But instead the reservist, who joined after serving as a New York City firefighter during the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, said he has undergone 21 months of confusion over his military status and rights, and is still waiting for additional surgeries to repair torn muscles

"In my mind, there is one word for this: discrimination," he said Wednesday, during testimony before a congressional panel investigating the treat-ment of wounded troops.

Top military officials acknowledged at the hearing that such health care inconsistencies do exist, despite efforts to ensure equitable care for all those injured in combat zones

Cuomo praised the medical professionals who have treated him — one doctor told him he was a "sailor and a patient, not a reservist" — but said administrators have delayed and denied treatments for him

At one point, he said, Navy officials classified his debilitating shoulder and head pain as "minor" and noncombat-related. His shoulder separation came during a training exercise inside Irag.

Members of Congress called that testimony upset-

"I'm disappointed that we're back here again to hear about the same problems that we've all worked so hard to fix," said Rep. John McHugh, R-N.Y., chairman of a House subcommittee on military per-"These reports are disturbing." sonnel.

Chief Warrant Officer Stephen Keeton said after initially receiving exemplary treatment overseas for his injuries, he returned home to find discrepancies

how reservists were handled. "I was really dismayed when an Army chaplain boarded our bus full of wounded troops, and began to ask if we were Reserve or active duty," he said "If it was Guard or Reserve he passed them up, and if it was an active-duty member he began to talk

"He said we would receive the care we needed when we got to the destination station, but he was there for the active-duty guys."

Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Joseph Webb said of the 21,000 Army guardsmen and reservists injured in the war on terror, nearly 16,000 have finished their rehabilitation and nearly 10,000 have been returned to duty.

"I don't think there's another system in the world that could do that," he said. "But improvements to the seamless transition of care are still needed." The hearing also covered health care problems

not related to duty status. Senior Airman Anthony Pizzifred, who lost his left leg to a land mine in Iraq. said some medical centers he visited knew little about prosthetics and other treatment for amputees.



At the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Fisher House in Germany Lisa Sallee, her husband Air Force Staff Sgt. Ricky Sallee and their daughter, Brenna, unpack for their stay. "We have made supporting servicemen and women wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families, our No. 1 priority," said Jim Weiskopf, Fisher House Foundation spokesman, as the foundation looks to build new locations.

Fisher House looks for new locations

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

As more troops return from war zones needing long-term medical care, the Fisher House Founda-tion has shifted its focus on where to build houses that accommodate the wounded and their visiting families, officials said.

"We have made supporting ser-vice men and women wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families, our No. 1 priority ... which includes building Fisher Houses at medical centers where they're going to be receiving their g-term care," said Jim Weiskopf. foundation spokesman.

The nonprofit foundation foundaed in 1990 by philanthropists Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher originally built houses only at military treatment facilities. Ten years ago, it expanded and built its first Department of Veterans Affairs facility house in Albany, N.Y. There now are six VA Fisher Houses, and a seventh near completion.

"The change for us at the VA is

SUNDAY

Worship Team Rehearsal

Prayer in Sanctuary

Worship Service Children's Church (English, Japanese) 10:45 am

Youth Ablaze Service

Home Fellowship (1st & 3rd Sunday) 1:00 pm

Holy Grounds Café (2nd & 4th Sunday) 6:00 pm

that the Fisher House Foundation has committed to adding houses at our facilities," said Jill Manske, director of social work servic-es at the VA.

We're beginning to see a lot of casualties from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom being treated at our facilities, patients who are still on active duty, and their families are coming from long distances and need lodging," Manske said.

A Fisher House is "a home away from home," conceived to give families a place to stay while loved ones receive medical care They feature private bedrooms and common kitchens, laundry facilities and dining and living rooms, and normally are located within walking distance of the treatment center or have transportation available.

About 8.500 families a year stay at the foundation's 32 Fisher Hous es. Two of them are at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, the sole location outside of the United States.

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8:00 am

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: iontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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U.S. troop deaths in Iraq surpass 1,500



A GI patrols in Baghdad on Thursday. The number of U.S. military deaths in Iraq has topped 1,500.

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - The number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq has topped 1,500. an Associated Press count showed Thursday after the military an-nounced the deaths of three Americans, while car bombs targeting Iraqi security forces killed at least four people in separate attacks.

Two suicide car bombs exploded outside the Interior Ministry in east-ern Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least two policemen and wounding five others, police Maj. Jabar Hassan said. Officials at nearby al-Kindi hospital said 15 people were injured in the blasts, part of the relentless wave of violence since the Jan. 30 elections.

Another car bomb targeting a police convoy exploded in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of the capital, killing one Iraqi policeman and a civilian, the U.S. military said. Six police and 10 other civilians were also wounded.

Amid the violence, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi extended the state of emergency, first announced nearly four months ago, for another 30 days until the end of March. The order remains in effect throughout the country, except in northern Kurdish-run

The emergency decree includes a nighttime curfew and gives the government extra powers to make arrests without warrants and launch police and military operations when it deems The latest reported American deaths brought the toll to 1,502 since the United States launched the war in Iraq in March 2003, according to the

AP count. The military said two U.S. troops died Wednesday in Baghdad of injuries suffered when a roadside bomb

struck their vehicle. Another soldier was killed the same day in Babil province, part of an area known as the "Triangle of Death" because of the frequency of insurgent attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces

The car bombers in Baghdad were trailing a police convoy that was try ing to enter the Interior Ministry, Has san said. Iraqi security forces opened fire on the vehicles and disabled them before they could arrive at a main said checkpoint, Col. Abdul-Rahman, an Interior Ministry snokesman

Iraqi forces also killed one Iraqi man during clashes with gunmen in the northern city of Mosul, army Capt. Sabah Yassin said.

Two soldiers were injured.

Also in the north, insurgents blew up a gas pipeline that links Kirkuk to Dibis, about 20 miles away, said Col. Nozad Mohammad, a state oil security official in Kirkuk.

Talks aimed at forging a new coalition government faltered Wednesday over Kurdish demands for more land and concerns that the dominant Shiite alliance seeks to establish an Islamic state, delaying the planned first meeting of parliament.

February saw fewest U.S. losses since July

By LISA BURGESS Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - February was the best month U.S. forces in Iraq have had in a while, with just 58 U.S. troops killed, the fewest in a single month since last July. when 54 died.

Still, the U.S. death toll in Iraq surpassed 1,500 on Thursday, even though violence has fallen to pre-election levels, according to defense officials

"Iraq is still a very dangerous place," said Lt. Col. Barry Ven-able. "There are still various enemy forces that are determined to disrupt the Iraqi march to independence.

"That said," Venable added, "it appears the overall level of attacks has gone down to the levels they were prior to the pre-election and election period

November, December and January were among the most deadly months for U.S. troops since ne United States attacked Iraq in March 2003

Those three months represented an unusual spike, and were "anomalies" rather than the leading edge of an upward trend, Venable said

"In November, there was [the fight in] Fallujah, and December and January were the run-ups to elections," Venable said. "Then on election day, [the insurgents] threw everything they had at us.

U.S. troops were being attacked with improvised explosive devices, mortars and gunfire at a rate unwards of 100 incidents per day in the late months of 2004 and in January, a defense official with knowledge of internal unit records told Stars and Stripes.

Before that time, there were about 50 attacks on coalition personnel each day, said the official, who asked not to be named because he is not responsible for releasing such data.

Now the attacks are back down to about 50 per day, the official

Moreover, "we're finding that the attacks against coalition forces are less effective," the official

U.S. troops are growing particularly adapt at locating IEDs "before they go boom," the official said, crediting "better training, better [detection] equipment, and better recognition" for that suc-

Insurgents are also continuing to focus their most deadly attacks against Iraqis, particularly the new Iraqi police and military forces, which are still finding their feet, Army Gen. John Abizaid, head of U.S. forces in the Middle East, told the House Armed Services Committee on Wednesday

E-mail Lisa Burgess at burgessl@stripes.osd.mil



Lone Wolf



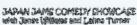
Entertainment

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Seacho Yokosaka



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Thursday, March 24, 2005 Vokosuka Sharker's Brewery Club Attlance

Wednesday, March 33, 2008 Accust Club Trikey

Casuarday, March 26, 2008 New Senso



'You just feel like you're helping soldiers'

Small factory known for making salad bars now constructs armor bound for Iraq



John Credeur works with a tungsten inert gas welder to join pieces of a windshield retaining armor, for vehicles in Iraq, at the American Metal Fabricators factory in MaryBY AMIT R. PALEY The Washington Pos

WASHINGTON - For a half-century, the clangorous machines at American Metal Fabricators have churned out stainless-steel salad bars and rotisserie-chicken display cases for gro-

cery stores and university cafeterias. Last year, however, the family-owned factory

near the Chesapeake Bay took on a new mission: vehicle armor for the U.S. military. To meet the de

mand for equipment in Irag, the Pentagon increasingly has turned to what it calls "nontraditional"

vendors, with little or no defense experience. The military said it does not keep figures, but Paul Kern, who retired last month as commanding general of Army Materiel Command, estimated it has used thousands of such firms in the past two years.

"I guess everybody who does war work has got more than they can handle," said James Phillip Poole, president of American Metal Fabricators in Prince Frederick, Md., about 40 miles southeast of here

The stakes were particularly high for his 100 employees when they added armor to their regular line of food service equipment in February 2004. Not only did they face a sharply increased workload, they did so knowing that every piece of metal they sliced and welded could make a life-or-death difference. Reports of undersupplied soldiers scrounging for scrap metal to cover their vehicles added to the gravity of the task.

"These people are depending on this to be strong and dependable. I've got to make sure it

is," said John Cre-44 These people are deur, 20, before fodepending on this to cusing his blowtorch on the pieces be strong and of iron he was welding together into dependable. I've got windshield frames. to make sure it is. " "It makes me

> John Credeur something. To see that my hard work welder, American helping our Metal Fabricators

feel good."

The company, founded by Poole's father in 1946 in his basement, had \$10 million in sales last year. It made salad bars and other food equipment.

feel like I'm part of

troops, it makes me

That was before a military supplier asked Poole whether he could also produce 2.000 sets of steel armor plates to frame 170-pound bulletproof windshields for the Army's Humvees. Workers were excited, though a bit perplexed. "We were astonished that we got

it," foreman Tony Hardesty, 38, said. "We've never done black ironwork before. We were like, man, we're doing

design the armor. The Army sent no blueprints, just the hulking front of a Humvee (for reference) and formidable technical specifications: The armor, for example, had to be strong enough to hold the windshield onto the Humvee frame even if the vehicle hit an eight-inch curb at 80 mph.

"We were just going completely fresh," said Glen Knott, who spent three 11-hour days on a computer design program to find a way for the company's machines to bend and punch sheets of metal into windshield

Military tests revealed a problem with the initial design: Rounds from an M-14 could pierce the two quarter-inch-thick plates of armor tween panes of the windshield. So Poole added a third sheet

The military contract created an overwhelming amount of work, coming during an already busy spring. The Pentagon often allowed only six weeks to fill complicated orders, causing some workers to put in 12-hour shifts and work weekends.

"We were busy as hell," said Poole, who sometimes woke at 2 a.m. to get the work done

As they finished the first order, new requests poured in. The firm has produced more than 8,000 sets of armored windshield frames

It's been easy to get employees to meet the production targets. Poole

"You just feel like you're helping sol-First, they had to figure out how to diers," Hardesty said.



Yokota Baptist Church Pastor Warren Webster

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5 mar enember 25 mar
6 pm service
5 mar
6 ms Prayer Breakfast 8 am
5 Mar Ladies Bible Study 2-4 pm;
Theme: Celebrating all birthdays
(babysitting available)
April Revival meetings with Brother Chovan Faith Bible Institute Tuesday Soul Winning & Visitation Wednesday

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Exhibit gives faces to GIs killed in Iraq

BY WILLIAM KATES The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — It's hard to forget the face of a fallen soldier. Imagine the impression created by 1,483 of them.

Portraits of American servicemen and women killed in Iraq go on display Thursday on a 200-foot stretch of wall in Syracuse University's Shaffer Art Building. The 5-by-7-inch images will stay up until April 1.

"It's a powerful sight to take in," said Syracuse University professor Stephen Zaima, who teaches painting. "It's not about the artists or their styles. It's not about the war or politics. It's about these people who have given their

The exhibition, "To Never Forget: Faces of the Fallen," builds on the work done last year by students and faculty at The College of Marin in California, who produced 1,109 portraits.

The 374 others - done using pencil, ink, oils, watercolors, prints, even computers — were created by students, faculty and staff members at Syracuse as well as local artists. The portraits are of soldiers who were killed un to Feb. 19

As of Thursday, at least 1,502 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of



Kristin Sorrentino, a Syracuse University advertising design senior, paints a portrait of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Joeph E. Rodriguez of Fort Hood, Texas, on Thursday. SU students, faculty and community mem bers added 350 portraits of soldiers killed in Iraq to an already existing exhibition of about 1,100 from the College of Marin, in California

the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count

Zaima painted 1st Lt. Adam Malson, 23, of Rochester Hills, Mich., who died Feb. 19, "Sitting there eye to eye, you get a connec-tion," he said. "You get to know them a little bit."

The artists based their work

mainly on newspaper and Internet photographs of the soldiers. Some were given additional personal information. The portraits will eventually be

sent to the soldiers' families.

"I'd be proud to give these to their families," said Jennifer Schiffman, a senior from Buffalo Grove, Ill.

IN THE WORLD

'We're on a constant hunt for bin Laden'

But U.S. desire to bring terrorist to justice may outstrip resources

BY KATHERINE SHRADER The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Osama bin Laden remains Public Enemy No. 1, but recent developments raise questions about the ability of U.S. forces to track down the elusive terrorist and the resources dedicated to the hunt more than three years after the Sept. 11, 2001, at-

Fresh reminders of the unsuccessful search come as intelligence officials indicated this week that bin Laden has been in contact with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the top al-Qaida figure in Iraq, enlisting his help in planning attacks inside the United

In a rare mention of his name Thursday, President Bush said bin Laden hopes to attack again on U.S. soil and "stopping him is the greatest challenge of our

"We're on a constant hunt for bin Laden," Bush said at a ceremonial swearing-in for Homeland Security Secretary Mike Chertoff.

Current and former government officials say there is no doubt that the Bush administration wants bin Laden "dead or alive," as the president said shortly after Sept. 11. But skills and dollars may fall short of desire. Army Gen. John Abizaid, chief

of U.S. Central Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee this week that bin Laden and the al-Oaida senior leadership have been "our priority tarsince Sept. 11 but added, 'It's important for all of us to know that military forces do best in attacking the network as onposed to looking for a specific per-

personnel including CIA paramilitary, contractors and some of the military's highly trained special forces have been on the hunt. In a recent report, the Congressional Research Ser vice said 18,000 U.S. forces remain in Afghanistan, running down al-Qaida and Taliban. joined by thousands of Pakistani forces and agents.

Yet a former intelligence offi cial, speaking on condition of anonymity, wondered about recent decisions on U.S. resources. The official said intelligence and mili tary assets were moved from Afghanistan to Iraq for the Jan. 30 elections there, and it's unclear whether they went back.

Since the late 1990s, the government has debated how best to get the terror leader and what his capture is worth. In the 2001 Patriot Act, lawmakers authorized the State Department, through its Rewards for Justice Program, to pay more than \$5 million

The long search for Osama bin Laden

Even before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the U.S. government was offering a reward for information leading to the capture of al-Qaida founder and Saudi exile Osama bin Laden - wanted in connection with other U.S. attacks.

Confirmed or suspected al-Qaida attacks before Sept. 11



February

August 1998 Allegedly responsible for

October 2000 USS Cole in a suicide hombing that killed 17 sailors in Vamon

for arming Somalis who

battled U.S. forces there.

killing 18 special opera-

tions personnel

partment expenditures, congressional aides say. GOP leaders of the House Appropriations Committee planned to release their version of the war package on

Thursday. An aide, who like others snoke only on condition of anonymity Wednesday, said

GOP wants to

add war funds

WASHINGTON - House

Republicans want to add about

\$1.8 billion for armored vehi-

cles and other defense needs

to President Bush's request

for the conflicts in Iraq and Af-

ghanistan and other opera-

tions abroad, figures obtained

by The Associated Press show.

half the \$4 billion he proposed

for Afghan rebuilding, aid to

other allies and for State De-

They also want to pare about

include aid to Indian Ocean countries recovering from the December tsunami

The House changes reflect a bipartisan desire to be gener-ous to U.S. troops serving abroad, despite concerns lawmakers had with parts of Bush's proposal.

1992 - Claimed responsi-October 1993



1993 - Mounting evidence suggests infirst bombing of the World Trade Cente in New York

bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed about 300 Matchbook with U.S. reward information from Peshawar.

legislation too.

Pakistan, near the Afghanistan border in 2000

In November, Congress authorized increasing the reward for information leading to bin Laden's killing or capture to \$50 million But Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hasn't boosted the reward.

Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Ill., who was behind the most recent rewards legislation, said the department is moving fast - "for the normal speed limit at the State Department" - in its consideration of the November legislation.

Kirk applauded other efforts under way, including a recent television, newspaper and radio campaign in four languages to re-mind Pakistanis about the reward. He was responsible for this

Kirk advises patience. On a trip to Pakistan in January, when newspaper ads were running, he said U.S. officials were getting a dozen tips a day on al-Qaida's

leadership - up from zero

66 people accused of pedophilia in France

By VERENA VON DERSCHAU

The Associated Press

ANGERS, France - Sixty-six people were accused of participating in a pedophilia ring in which children and babies were prostituted for food and small sums of money Thursday as one of France's biggest trials got

Prosecutors contend that dozens of children - ages 6 months to 14 years - were raped by their parents or offered to other adults for sex from 1999 to 2002. Some of the 45 victims, who

are now in the care of social services, were expected to testify by closed-circuit television. The children will not appear in

Authorities were offering psychological counseling to the jurors and six judges to help them cope with sordid testimony of child abuse and gang rape expected during the about four-month trial, to be held in a specially built courtroom in An-

Many of the defendants are from low-income households in the working class Saint-Leonard neighborhood of Angers, and some were themselves reportedly abused as children.

Three couples at the center of the prostitution ring lured their children and those of their relatives "to play doctor" with the adults, the newspaper Le Monde reported. One young girl was allegedly raped 45 times.

Defense lawyers planned to argue that government social workers, who were monitoring many of the suspects, failed in their responsibilities or turned a blind eve to signs of abuse. Some of the defendants cited in the 420-page legal filing are illiterate and don't fully understand the charges against them, law-

Thirty-nine people face up to 30 years in prison if convicted of raping minors under age 15 and on prostitution charges. Other suspects face up 10 years behind bars if convicted of sexual violence against minors and failure to denounce crimes

Cleric gets 2½ years in Bali bombings

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia - The alleged leader of a militant Islamic group was sentenced Thursday to 1/2 years in prison for conspiracy in the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings that killed 202 people but was cleared of more serious charges. The United States and Australia criticized the sentence.

A five-judge panel cleared Abu Bakar Bashir of allegations that as head of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah group he planned the 2003 suicide bombing of the J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta that killed 12 people and that he incited his followers to launch terrorist attacks.

66-year-old preacher could be released from prison by late 2006 with time already served in prison taken into

account. Bashir faced a maximum penalty of death over the Marriott charge, but most

analysts had predicted his punish ment would be far less - partly due to a weak case by prosecutors. During the five-month trial only one witness directly testified Bashir

headed Jemaah Islamiyah, the group blamed in

both attacks. "I'm being oppressed by people from abroad and at home.

44I'm being

oppressed by

people from

abroad and at

home 11

Abu Bakar Bashir

after being sentenced

Bashir said after the verdict, surrounded by hundreds of cheering supporters, "They consider Islamic law to be a shackle and are slaves to immoral behavior. Allah, open their hearts or destroy them.

"Smash America and its lackevs." shouted one supporter.

Both sides said

they would consider appealing the verdict, with Bash ir's lawyers calling the sentence politically motivated. Bashir and his

have repeatedly claimed that Jakarta was under pressure from the United States to find him guilty.

lia, which lost seven and 88 citizens respectively in the attack on Bali tourist nightclubs, consider Bashir the spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiyah and were hoping for a lengthy prison term to deter terrorism in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

"We respect the independence and judgment of the Indonesian courts," U.S. Embassy spokesman Max Kwak said. "But given the gravity of the charges on which he was convicted, we are disappointed at the length of the

"We'd have liked a longer sentence," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said.

Intelligence officials say Jemaah Islamiyah has cells across Southeast Asia where it is believed to be seeking a pan-Islamic state Alleged members jailed without trial in Malaysia are accused of helping two of the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers during a visit to that country in 2000.

Before that attack, Bashir was chiefly known for his campaign to install an Islamic-based government in Indonesia and his criticism of U.S. policy toward Muslim countries. He has little active support in Indonesia, where hard-line religious interpretations are unpopular.

its overall price tag would be just below Bush's \$81.9 billion proposal The bill is expected to also

Jenkins applies for U.S. passport

TOKYO - Charles Robert Jenkins, who spent nearly 40 years in North Korea after abandoning his U.S. Army unit in 1965, visited the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on Thursday to apply for an Ameri-

can passport. Jenkins, something of a celebrity in Japan, was hustled into the embassy compound in a bus with tinted windows. Embassy officials refused to comment because of privacy laws, but officials in his Japanese wife's hometown said apply for a



Army post in South Korea in January 1965 and fleeing to the North. Since then, hometown of Mano, on the northern Japan island of Sado

Jenkins, 64 and frail, has said he has no plans to return permanently to the United States but would like to visit his home in North Carolina with his wife. Hitomi Soga, and their two North Korean-born daughters

Soga was kidnapped by North Korean agents when she was a 19. vear-old student and taken to the isolated communist state in 1978.

She married Jenkins soon afterward but was only allowed to reKorea reversed years of denial and admitted it had kidnapped 13 Japanese in the 1970s and 1980s.

Jenkins and their daughters left North Korea and joined Soga last July.

Last month, he told reporters that he wants to see his 91vear-old mother as soon as possible. She lives in a nursing home in Roanoke Rapids, N.C.

Embassy officials said it normally takes three to four weeks to process a passport application.

Fans not allowed access to Fischer

BY AUDREY MCAVOY The Associated Press

TOKYO - Bobby Fischer's supporters said they were wrongfully denied access to the former chess champion in Japanese immigration detention this week, and were worried about his health and well-being, a spokesman said Thursday.

Washington has been seeking Fischer, 61, for more than a decade on charges of violating international sanctions against the former Yugoslavia

play-



with an invalid U.S. passport,

ported to the United States. "We'd like to know the health and safety of Mr. Fischer." said John Bosnitch of the Committee to Free Bobby Fischer after supporters from Iceland were refused access to the chess great at a detention center outside Tokyo on Wednesday and Thursday.

Authorities cited "safety reasons" for their decision, he said

Fischer's lawyer, Miyoko Watai, visited him and spoke to him by phone Tuesday, but hasn't had contact since, Bosnitch said, adding that supporters would try to see him again on Friday.

Testsuya Shishido, a spokesman for East Japan Detention Immigration Detention Center, where Fischer is being held refused to comment on inmate visits. He said center rules prohibited him from even saving whether Fischer was there.

Icelandic immigration authorities last month agreed to grant Fischer a special passport for foreigners that would allow him to travel to Western Europe, but rejected supporters' request that he be awarded citizenship.

His lawyers initially fought the deportation order - which Fischer claims is politically motivated. But after Iceland's decision, they petitioned a Jap-anese court to free Fischer and let him go to Iceland - instead of the United States. The case is pending.

Anti-Syrian sentiment on the rise

BY BASSEM MROUE The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon -Syrian taxi driver Mohammed Toja has been ferrying passengers between Beirut and Damascus for 12 years. But he is reconsidering working here amid the soaring anti-Syrian sentiment that's followed last month's assassination of Lebanon's former prime minister Two days after a massive bomb

killed Rafik Hariri and 17 others in Beirut, Toja's Dodge - its bright yellow color marking it as a Syrian taxi - was damaged when people on an overpass dropped a motorcycle battery And during a recent breakfast.

angry young men warned him to leave the neighborhood or his car would be attacked again. "If things continue this way. I

probably will stop coming to Lebanon," said the 38-year-old, standing with fellow Syrian drivers near Charles Helou Station, Beirut's main stop for taxis driving between Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

Toja is like hundreds of thousands of Syrian workers - mainly farmers and construction work. ers — lured to Lebanon by the promise of higher pay. But their numbers have noticeably dwin-



Syrian workers load their bags into a bus before heading back to their country on Tuesday. Since last month's assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, thousands of Syrian have workers left the country after some of them were attacked by Lebanese.

dled since some have become tar-gets after Hariri's death, which many Lebanese blame on Syria and their own country's pro-Damascus authorities

Desnite official Syrian and Lebanese denials, anti-Syrian sentiment has reached fever pitch throughout this country. Massive anti-Syrian protests hrought down Lebanon's pro-Damsacus government and calls are intensifying for the withdrawal of Syria's 15,000 troops based here. A day after Hariri's Feb. 14 assassination, dozens of supporters

clashed with Syrian workers in his southern hometown of Sidon, slightly injuring five Syrians. In the northern town of Minve. 23 tents housing dozens of Syrian laborers were burned, although the cause was unclear

Many Syrian workers quit. packed up and headed home. In western Beirut's Cola and Barbir

neighborhoods, where hundreds of Syrian workers once waited to be hired for temporary work, only about a dozen anneared re-

Fearful of anti-Syrian recriminations, Lebanese opposition leaders urged protesters not to attack Syrian workers following demonstrations that led to the resignation of Prime Minister Omar Karami's pro-Damascus Cabinet.

Group: Pastor dies while aiding defectors

Korean-American preacher drowned in effort to help North Koreans reach the South

The Associated Press

SEOUL - A Korean-American nastor drowned in a river while trying to help a group of North Koreans defect to the South, a civic group claimed Thursday.

A swift current swept away 62-year-old Jeffrey Bahk, also known as Joon-jae, as he tried to swim across the Mekong River from Myanmar to Laos with six North Korean defectors on Jan. 2, said Chun Ki-won, director of Durihana Mission, a Seoul-based missionary group that helps Northern defectors.

The six defectors were passing through China, Laos and Myanmar on their way to South Korea where they wanted to seek asylum. Chun said. He said they had been detained

in Myanmar for illegal entry and had sent him letters reporting that they saw Bahk drown in the

The six are now in Seoul Chun said. The Foreign Ministry declined to confirm if they had entered South Korea.

Bahk, of Atlanta, Ga., had been

working with Durihana Mission and had accompanied the six defectors from Vanii in China's Jilin province after they fled their home country in November.

In recent years, North Korean defectors have traveled through China to countries such as Myanmar and Laos - then to Thailand or other countries they hope will sympathize with their plight - before arriving in South Korea.

Those caught by Chinese authorities are often sent home. where they can expect harsh punishment. Last month, a Seoul-based civic

group alleged North Korea had executed 70 defectors, who had been captured in China, to dis courage others from fleeing the communist country.

Nearly 1,900 North Koreans defected to the South last year — an increase of nearly 50 percent from the year before - to escape hunger and political repression in their homeland.

The inter-Korean border re mains sealed and heavily guard ed after the 1950-53 Korean War.



LATWP phot

Teacher Yuko Taguchi works with 8-year-olds Mayu Kusanagi, Chika Suzuki, Tatsuya Wakamatsu. The three are the only second-grade students at Kami Hindukniai Elementary, which is scheduled to close in 2007 due to a lack of children. Japan's low birthrate has led to a dearth of children, the closing of many schools and a shrinking population.

'Children are vanishing'

Japan's low birth rate leading to economic worries

BY ANTHONY FAIOLA
Washington Post Foreign Service

NISHIKI, Japan — When Kami Hinokinai Junior High opened half a century ago in this picturesque northern village, Fukuyo Suzuki, then a young mother, remembers joining other parents on a warm May afternoon to plant pink azaleas in the schoolyard.

The azaleas are still here, though bare in the winter snow and, like the new occupants of the school, more fragile than they once were. In a nation grappling with a record low birthrate and the world's longest average life span, Suzuki, 77, is spending the daytime hours of her twilight years back in the halls of her son's old school.

The junior high, which ceased operation six years ago because of a shortage of children, now houses a community center for the elderly.

"I never imagined this school would close and that I would be back here myself," said Suzuki, a farmer's widow who lives with her 52-year-old son. Like one out of four men in Nishik, her son remains single and childless. "Now, I hear our elementary school is going to close, too," she said. "It's so sad for us. Children are vanishing from our lives."

The change at the jumior high in this shrinking village of S₂P4 is an example of what analysts describe as Japan's greatest national problem: a combination baby bust and senior citizen boom. Indeed, next year Nishiki is set to pay the highest price for its shrinking population: Unable to sustain its annual budget, it will join a growing list of Japanese towns that have officially ceased to exist and have merged with a neighboring city.

In the aftermath of World War II, the rush to build a modern



Fukuyo Suzuki, 77, spends her days in her son's former junior high school in the village of Nishi-ki, which closed six years ago and recently has been turned into a day care center for the elderly. She says she misses the voices of children in her village.

economy sparked migration from urual towns such as Nishibi to Japan's urban centers. But officials say the lure of the big city is no longer the key factor driving depopulation. For at least the past decade, the leading cause of the town's shrinking population base has been a disturbingly low birthrate.

Last year, 42 babies were born in Nishiki, the lowest number since the town was incorporated in the 1950s, while 75 villagers died, according to local statistics. Nishiki's plight, analysts said, could be an omen of Japan's future.

The national child shortage, even as the population ages, is

raising fears about Japan's long-term ability to maintain its status as the world's second-largest economy after the United States. With more Japanese choosing to remain single and forgoing parenthood, the population of almost 128 million is expected to decrease next year, then plunge to about 126 million by 2015 and about 101 million by 2050.

Many people are asking. Will there be enough Japanese left to participate in the economy in the years to come? "A nation requires a certain scale in the population to continue its momentum, but in Japan, we are confronting a serious combination of a low birth-rate and an aging nation," said Kota Murase, a deputy director a Japan's Education Ministry.

"Our pension system is already being tested to its limits. And with fewer young people in society, the question is: How are we going to sustain the elderly and the nation's future? We don't have a clear answer yet."

The list of solutions is short and complicated. The most obvious popening Japan to more immigration—is enormously controversial in a society that is 98.8 percent ethnically homogeneous and, in many respects, still markedly xenohobic.

When Japan's economic bubble burst in 1990, Japanese companies seeking less expensive alternatives to men began hiring women for contract and part-time jobs. Gender roles have changed as a result. With increasing financial independence, more women are avoiding marriage. According to a poll released this week by Ja pan's Yomiuri newspaper, seven out of 10 single Japanese women say they have no desire to become wives - a role that in Japan still largely means staying home and raising children.

Special correspondent Sachiko Sakamaki contributed to this report.

'Little Black Sambo' to be revived in Japan

Some criticize children's book as racist

The Vomiuri Shimbun

TOKYO—The former best-selling translated children's book "Chibikuro Sambo" ("Little Black Sambo"), which went out of print because of criticism it had racist content, will be republished next month, The Yomiuri Shimbun learned Wednesday.

The original Japanese translation was published by Iwanami Shoten, but this time Zuiunsha in Tokyo will revive the book. Zuiunsha has already received orders for the book from bookstores.

The original stories of "Little Black Sambo" were written by Helen Bannerman in Britain at the end of the 19th century.

The most popular of the stories in Japan involved the main character, Sambo, using his wits to escape a tiger attack.

In Japan, scores of translations were published, but the most popular one was the Iwanami Shoten version illustrated by Frank Dobias and translated by Natsuya

Mitsuyoshi, which sold out in 1953. More than 1 million copies were sold.

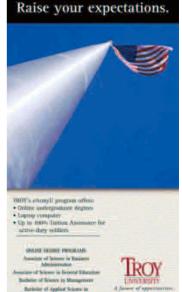
But in 1988, citizen groups began criticizing the book's content as discriminatory against t black people. Publishing houses decided to stop printing the book.

On the other hand, some said the decision to stop publication was too hasty. For example, poet Shuntaro Tanikawa said, "Because of the power of the work, it may be good to keep it as a material to think about discrimination."

The issue was examined in books and discussed in symposiums. In 1999, Komichi Shobo published an original edition that used the author's illustrations.

Zuiunsha President Tomio Inoue said: "I don't think the book has discriminatory expressions compared with other picture books. The illustrations in Iwanami's version were beautiful and loved by many people. We must hand it down to the next generation."

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Sir Richard Branson, left, and Peggy Fossett watch as Steve Fossett

Fossett sets record with global solo flight

By JOHN MILRURN The Associated Press

SALINA, Kan. - Millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett on Thursday became the first person to fly around the world solo without stopping or refueling — 67 hours and 23,000 miles after taking off in his spindly-looking, experimental iet

"That was something I wanted to do for a long time, a major ambition," a jubilant Fossett said immediately after emerging from the custom-built GlobalFlyer.

An equally happy Sir Richard Branson, the Virgin Atlantic founder who financed the flight. grabbed a bottle of champagne from Fossett, shook it up, and sprayed down his pilot and longtime friend. Fossett then guzzled from the bottle in celebration.

Fossett, 60, already holds the record for flying solo around the globe in a balloon. He failed five times before successfully completing that flight, but needed just one try to make the trip in a plane. This latest adventure gives Fossett yet another aviation record, adding to the many he holds as a balloonist, pilot and sailor.

But there was some doubt if Fossett would make it back to Salina. Fuel sensors in the cus-tom-built plane's 13 tanks differed from readings of how quickly its single jet engine was burn-ing fuel, forcing Fossett's crew to assume that 2,600 of the original 18,100 pounds of fuel "disappeared

It was unclear whether there was an actual leak or just a problem with the sensors, Fossett's team said. He touched down in Salina at 1:48 p.m.

NYPD: Grand Central sketch no threat

BY TOM HAYS

NEW YORK - A drawing of Grand Central Terminal found in the home of a suspect in the Madrid train bombings was "not something that would indicate an immediate threat." Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said.

The crude sketch was "a very basic schematic," and was never deemed cause for alarm, Kelly said on Wednesday in response to a report in the Spanish newspaper El Mundo.

The drawing and other data were on a computer disk seized about two weeks after the train bombings in Madrid that killed 191 people on March 11, 2004, El Mundo reported. Spanish police turned the disk over to U.S. agents from the FBI and CIA in December.

Kelly said the data also was shared with the New York Police Department's counterterrorism division and city transit officials, who concluded the sketch denicted Grand Central.

The material also included photographs, and a drawing of a private building in the city, which Kelly refused to identify. But an analysis found no indication of a terrorism plot, and authorities quickly decided there was no need to alert the public, he said.

"We didn't see it as a threaten ing piece of information." he said.

Window washers rescued in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES - Two window washers were rescued Thursday through a 10th-floor window after their scaffolding collapsed, leaving them dangling for about 40 minutes off a building in downtown Los An-

Neither was injured in the incident, which was broadcast throughout the United States. Both workers had been wearing safety harnesses attached to the roof of the 12-story building.

Firefighters broke a window and helped them through it.

Year later, gays call marriages step forward

BY RUKMINI CALLIMACHI

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. - Every morning before she headed out into the world. Evelyn Hall took off her gold ring and placed it on the kitchen counter. When she returned at night, she slipped it back on.

Last year, she put it on for good when she married the woman whom relatives had assumed was her roommate, cracking open the secret life the two had hidden for 46 years.

A total of 2,968 couples wed in

Oregon when the state's most populous county began issuing same-sex marriage licenses a year ago Thursday. Every one of those marriages is now in legal limbo - but gay couples say their legally hazy unions are nonethe-

less a giant leap forward "It was like an out-of-slavery experience. I know it sounds crazy, but we were so closeted. said Mary Beth Brindley, 65, who ran away from home to be with Hall, now 66, when she was 19 "It's a total relief not to have to lie

anymore Gay weddings swept the counSan Francisco on Feb. 12, 2004. when Mayor Gavin Newsom flung open the city's wedding reg-

istry to gay couples. The movement jumped to Oregon in March, then New Mexico and New Paltz, N.Y. By May, thousands of gay couples were on their way to tying the knot in Massachusetts following a ruling by the state's highest court.

Then the backlash set in. Last November, voters in Ore gon and 10 other states passed ballot measures banning gav marriage Voters in two other states

Missouri and Louisiana, banned gay marriages in 2004.

In Oregon and in California, wsuits are wending their way through the state's legal machinery to determine the legal status of some 7,000 certificates issued

to gay couples in the two states. And while an effort to pass a federal ban on gay marriage failed in the Senate last year, supporters say they will try again in

the new Congress.

Opponents of gay marriage point to these and other successes to say they are winning the battle over the definition of marriage

They say gay couples are living in a fantasy world, pretending to be married when neither state nor federal law has sanctioned their unions. "They're basically lying to themselves," said Tim Nashif, polit-ical director of the Oregon-based Defense of Marriage Coalition, which backed the ballot measure

here banning gav measure. Gay advocates contend time is on their side. "It's a case of two steps forward for every one step back, which means we're still one step ahead," said Rebekah Kassell, spokeswoman for Basic Rights Oregon, the state's leading gay rights group.

Zippo upset by ban

PITTSBURGH - Zippo Manufacturing Co., which prides itself on its classic brass, and chrome but tane lighters, says new air travel security regulations could cut into sales by as much as 30 percent.

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration has announced it will ban butane, electric and absorbed fuel lighters aboard all air craft and in areas behind airport

security gates beginning in April. Such lighters already were banned in checked baggage, but passengers previously had been allowed to have two lighters in their carry-on luggage.

Zippo officials will meet with U.S. officials later this month to plead their case. Millions of the metal, rectangular lighters are bought on impulse at duty-free shops and at vacation spots as me-

Jackson trial video

SANTA MARIA, California -Jurors in the Michael Jackson case got their first look Thursday at the singer's master bedroom suite where he allegedly molested a 13-year-old boy.

The panel was shown videotape from a Nov. 18, 2003, raid of Jackson's Neverland ranch that included shots of his cluttered bedroom. but none of the sexually explicit magazines that Santa Barbara County District Attorney Thomas Sneddon has said were found in the suite

The video, shot by Sheriff's Department photographer Albert Lafferty, showed a sparkling bedspread, pictures of Marilyn Monroe and Shirley Temple, several TVs and stacks of videos.

Ex-spy cannot sue CIA

WASHINGTON - A former Cold War spy couple who defected to the United States lost their bid to sue the CIA on Wednesday in a Supreme Court case in which they contended the agency reneged on a pledge of lifetime sup-

The possibility that an espionage relationship might be revealed if a lawsuit proceeded was unacceptable, Chief Justice William Rehnquist said in a unanimous decision.

Former spies cannot sue to enforce their contracts, the court concluded, because of the secret nature of their agreements

From The Associated Press

States keep lid on mad cow investigations

The Associated Press

DENVER. Colo. When rumor hit the commodities trading floor in Chicago three years ago that Kansas cattle had contracted foot-and-mouth disease prices plummeted

A rumor that lasted only a day cost the beef industry an estimated \$50 million and forced agriculture officials to spend weeks assuring consumers that the food supply was safe.

With this case and others like it in mind, lawmakers across the country are working on ways to keep livestock disease investigations secret until absolutely necessarv. Proposals already have passed in Idaho and Wyoming. while lawmakers in Colorado. Maryland and Utah are considering bills this spring.

In Wyoming, false reporting of an animal disease outbreak is a crime. "There's just no reason to get consumers riled up about something that didn't happen," said Mel Coleman Jr., whose family founded Coleman Natural Produ ucts Inc., which sells beef from ranches in Colorado and 12 other

But Jean Halloran, director of Consumers Union's Consumer Policy Institute in Yonkers. New York, said there are good reasons to fully disclose all information about testing for animal diseases - especially mad cow, the common name for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE



A polled Hereford bull peers over the fence in the yards at the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo in Denver. When rumor of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak among Kansas cattle hit the commodities trading floor in Chicago three years ago, prices plummeted.

Humans who eat BSE-contaminated tissue can contract a degenerative, fatal brain disorder called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob

"In a disease as serious as this, we have to have complete open ness and transparency," she said. However, Halloran also said

keeping information secret until confirmation of an infection is an understandable step to protect the industry. That is somewhat more restrictive than how the U.S. Agriculture Department has handled public disclosure.

In December 2003, a few weeks after a Holstein in Washington state was screened for mad cow disease, the government said the animal had tested "presumptive positive." The government said a few days later the results had been confirmed in independent

No more cases of the disease have been confirmed in the Unit-ed States, though the government announced three times last year its preliminary rapid-test proce dures had provided inconclusive results. That brought harsh criticism from some ranchers.

"It's real easy to get information like a false positive out in public. It's real hard to get the information that it was (proved negative) back out to the public," said in northwestern Colorado and is a founder of R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America.

The preliminary tests for mad cow and some other diseases are designed to be conservative and provide a false positive if there's uncertainty to prompt further, more accurate testing, said Jim Miller, director of policy and initiatives for the Colorado Agricul-

ture Department. He said a bill moving through the Colorado Legislature would allow the state to keep secret that there was a false positive result. If asked, officials could say only that an investigation is under

But Jay Truitt, vice president of government affairs for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, said it's nearly impossible to conceal that an animal is being tested for disease. The beef industry has some 2 million workers

"It's a bad idea to try to hide this information, based on the fact we've yet to see one of these cases conducted where there aren't leaks," he said. "We think that if somebody in the marketplace knows, everybody in the marketplace should know.

The group differs from R-CALF, saying the government should tell the public about pre-liminary test results indicating the possibility of disease - but not reveal the identity and location of the animal and its owners until a positive result is con-

Rapist denied parole after victims testify

the pleas of

Kelly's two

victims, Adri-

enne Bak and Hillary

who sat to-

gether and fought back

tears as they

described

Kelly's

Buchanan,

SUFFIELD, Connecticut - A parole board Thursday rejected a ranist's hid to be released from prison, sending the former iet-set fugitive who lived in Europe back to prison until 2008.

Alex Kelly, who was charged in 1986 with raping two teenagers while he was a high school wrestling standout, was visibly angry after the ruling and demanded of the three-member board, "Why do vou come here?

Board members said they were



crimes "For 19 years, Adrienne and I have been trying to get justice for

ted against us," Buchanan said. "He left such an indelible mark on my soul."

Kelly, now 37, has spent eight years in prison, which his victims noted was slightly less time than he lived in Europe as a fugitive.

"I wish there was some way I could explain how sorry I am for what I have done." Kelly told the

"I take full responsibility for the things I have done. I have caused a lot of pain to a lot of people and I am sorry for that."

The board peppered Kelly with questions about his crimes, his time in Europe and what he has been doing in prison. When asked why he raped his

victims, Kelly said he had been under the belief that the world owed him something.

"I know I'm not the center of the world today," he said.

Just before his trial was to begin in 1987, Kelly fled the country. While in Europe, he spent time skiing and mountain climbing using money authorities say his wealthy parents sent him.

Cosby tells Enquirer his side of the story

BY NICOLE WEISENSEE EGAN Knight Ridder

PHILADELPHIA - Bill Cosby has finally broken his silence about drugging and groping allegations levied against him by a former Temple University employee.

And he did it an exclusive interview with the National Enquirer, offering a vague, sort-of apology to the 31-year-old Canadian woman

"Looking back on it, I realize that words and actions can be misinterpreted by anoth er person, and unless you're a supreme being, you can't predict what another indi-vidual will do." Cosby said in an interview with Enquirer Editor Barry Levine, in the March 14 issue, which hits newsstands on

While Cosby at first said he did not want



the woman's motive was financial gain — "I don't want to go there" — he all but went there, anyway.

"I am not going to give in to people who try to exploit me because of my celebrity status," said Cosby, 67, who did not deny that he had been the

woman's mentor. "Sometimes you try to help people and it backfires on you and then they try to take advantage of you," Cosby said. "People can

soil you by taking advantage." Although Cosby has been cleared of any criminal charges, he said he was speaking

out in anticipation of a civil suit the Canadian woman is expected to file against him shortly

Cosby also commented on Tamara Green, a 57-year-old California lawyer who said Cosby had drugged and groped her more than 30 years ago. She told her story first to the Philadelphia Daily News.

"My problem is with some media and how it appeared that Miss Green was allowed to be a 'wrecking ball,' " he told the Enquirer, admitting that her allegations intensified the scandal.

David Brokaw, Cosby's publicist, confirmed that Cosby's interview was legiti-

Dolores Troiani and Bebe Kivitz, the Canadian woman's attorneys, issued a brief

"We are pleased that after Mr. Cosby's camp initially characterized our client's allegations as bizarre and utterly proposterous, he has acknowledged that it was his conduct after all that formed the basis for her allegations," they said.

Cosby's decision to speak to the supermarket tabloid with which he has had a contentious relationship over the years, was unusual for a number of reasons. Five years ago, he threatened a \$250 million lawsuit against the Enquirer and demanded a retraction of a story that claimed a then-20-year-old actress had accused him of sexual misconduct. Stuart Zakim, a spokesman for the Enquirer, declined to comment on whether Cosby had filed suit or whether the tabloid had retracted its

CIA director Porter Goss 'amazed' by his workload

44 The intelligence

community is

going to be

strengthened and

unified and more

effective than it

has ever been.

Porter Goss

The Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, California - In a rare public appearance, CIA Director Porter Goss said he is overwhelmed by the many duties of his job, including devoting five hours out of every day to prepare for and deliver intelligence briefings to President

"The jobs I'm being asked to do, the five hats that I wear, are too much for this mortal. Goss said. "I'm a little amazed at the workload.'

Goss praised Bush's choice for the new job of national intelligence director, John Ne-groponte. The career diplomat, who is expected to be con firmed by the Senate, will take over several of the duties currently assigned to Goss, including the presidential briefing.

Goss, who has made few pub lic comments beyond congres-sional testimony, also said the legislation creating

the position of director of national intelligence left him unclear on his future role. "It's got a huge amount of ambiguity in it," he

said. "I don't know by law what my direct relationship is with John Negroponte," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld or other top officials involved with intelligence.

Despite the confusion, Goss praised Negroponte's selection.

"I hold him in the very highest regard," he said, noting that the two attended Yale at the same time. "The intelligence community is going to be strengthened and unified and more effective than

it has ever been.'

Goss' remarks came during an hourlong address at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, before an audience of more than 200 that included former first lady Nancy Reagan. Tickets to the event were sold to the public

Goss, a CIA clandestine officer for 10 years who retired in 1972 said it takes him five hours every day to prepare and deliver the president's daily briefing, calling Bush "a voracious consumer of intelligence.

CIA director Legislation signed by Bush in December creates a national intelligence center and the powerful new position Negroponte is nominated for. He will oversee the

nation's 15 separate intelligence agencies. Goss will remain head of the CIA but under the

legislation loses his title as director of central intelligence. He said his role under the overhauled system will likely depend on Bush.



Rachel Robinson, widow of baseball great Jackie Robinson, stands with President Bush, left, and House Speaker Dennis Hastert. right. after she received the Congressional Gold Medal on his behalf at the Capitol on Wednesday in Washington.

Baseball great Robinson gets posthumous honor

BY ERICA WERNER The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - More than a half-century after breaking sport's color barrier, Jackie Rob breaking inson was posthumously awarded Congress' highest honor, a Congressional Gold Medal.

President Bush gave the medal to Robinson's widow, Rachel Robinson, on Wednesday in a stately ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. The Democratic and Republican leaders of the House and Senate and baseball commissioner Bud Selig looked on.

"His story is one that shows what one person can do to hold America to account to its founding promise of freedom and equal-ity," Bush said. "It's a lesson for

people coming up to see. "One person can make a big difference in setting the tone of this

country When Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, he was the first black player on a major league team. He died in 1972 and his No. 42 was retired

throughout baseball in 1997. "This medal confirms what we know," Rachel Robinson said.

"Jackie Robinson stands as a heroic role model for all Americans who believe in justice and equality.

Speakers extolled Robinson as a courageous athlete who suf-fered taunts and slurs from fans and fellow players, ignoring them as he proved both a brilliant ballplayer and a civil rights hero. The latter role wasn't one he sought but it became inevitable after Dodgers owner Branch Rickey bucked much of popular opinion and signed him.

"He knew he was a symbol and a barrier-breaker, and that staying the course would have consequences for millions of people to come," Rep. Mel Watt, D-N.C., chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, said.

Robinson stayed the course, and excelled. He was rookie of the year in 1947, and was voted the league's Most Valuable Player in 1949 when he batted .342 and drove in 124 runs. He played 10 seasons with the Brooklyn Dodgers often at second base

He was elected to baseball's Hall of Fame in 1962.

Charles tapes seized from recording engineer

BY GEOFF BOUCHER Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES - A recording engineer who worked for Ray Charles for two decades and who won four Grammys last month for his work on the late singer's final album was arrested four days later after police pried open the door of his Burbank loft and found 300 original master recordings that belonged to Charles. Terry Howard, 48, was in custo-

dy Wednesday after his arrest Feb. 17, but his attorney, Steve Crom, said they would post bail

Thursday. A judge reduced it from \$1 million to \$100,000 this week.

"These are recordings that he contractually and logically had every right to have in his possession," Crom said. A recording en-gineer, he said, often works at

Los Angeles Police Detective Donald O. Hrycyk said the boxes of recordings carted out of Howard's home - which consisted of a bed, refrigerator and other amenities in a commercial property in a recording industry district were not digitally recorded discs brought home for tinkering.

The detective said the stacks of music included old reel-to-reel recordings of Charles and other artists whose work was stored in the singer's library.

"There were tapes that were stored in climate-controlled rooms at Ray Charles Enterprises, and they are so fragile that they need to be heated to be played or else they can be destroyed," Hrycyk said. "When we got to them, some of them were molding."

Jerry Digney, Charles' former publicist and spokesman for his estate, said in a statement: "Whatever the outcome, Ray Charles Enterprises puts a high value on its assets, especially its master tapes, and will do its utmost to ensure their safety and proper handling along with protecting other irreplaceable valuables belonging to the late entertainer and to his estate."

Howard's attorney and his credits describe him as an Ohio naan Air Force veteran and a highly acclaimed technician in his field who not only had the trust of Charles for years but worked with Barbra Streisand, Stevie Wonder, Fleetwood Mac and Tom Jones.

A source in the recording industry said Howard was "a guy they brought in when they needed him, a guy they trusted.

Patients benefit from experiments

Terminally ill can improve by participating in studies

BY STEPHANIE NANO

The Associated Press

People with advanced cancers who try experimental treatments are helped more than previously thought, according to the most comprehensive look at U.S. gov ernment-sponsored tests over a decade.

These are patients who haven't benefited from other therapies and have few options left. But testing new treatments on them has been criticized by some who feel the patients are given false hope since previous reviews showed they only worked in about 4 percent to 6 percent.

However, this latest and largest study found that about 11 percent were helped by experimental treatment, and in some cases as many as 27 percent were better off.

"The numbers aren't as bleak

traved," said one of the researchers, Christine Grady, of the National Institutes of Health's Department of Clinical Bioethics. 'But the numbers don't tell the whole story

She said their review covered tests on different types of drugs and vaccines, combinations of drugs and some that had already been approved by the Food and Drug Administration, Only 22 percent of the reviewed tests were for a single chemotherapy drug; that was the only kind that showed low overall response.

She said patients who want to volunteer for early drug testing should look at the details for the type of experiment they are con-

sidering. "Phase I trials are not all

alike," she said. The first phase of drug testing in people is primarily designed to see if the treatment is safe and to find the right dose for future tests. though doctors also hope to get some idea of whether it works

Grady and her colleagues ana lyzed 460 tests with 11,935 participants, including some previously unpublished tests. They were done between 1991 and 2002 and were paid for by the NIH's National Cancer Institute Their review did not include tests financed by drug makers or those done on children. The research appeared in Thursday's New England Journal

Overall, about 3 percent saw their cancers disappear and about 8 percent had a substantial shrinkage of their tumors. Additionally, 34 percent saw some tumor shrinkage or saw their disease stabilized.

of Medicine

The rate of deaths blamed on

about half a percent. Side effect information was only available for about a third of participants; about 14 percent had at least one serious side effect.

"It does lend support to the statement we frequently make: If you're a candidate for a clinical trial, it's almost always the smartest thing you can do," said Dr. Larry Norton, deputy physi-cian-in-chief at New York's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He said cancer patients need and want more access to such tests.

"People really desperately want to receive therapy that stands any chance of benefiting them, and of benefiting humanity in general," he said.

Dr. Razelle Kurzrock, director of the Phase I program at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson

Alternate cancer treatment results

The latest and largest study on experi-mental cancer treatments found 44.7 percent of patients had positive results, including 3.1 percent who saw their cancer disappear.



Source: New England Journal of Medicine

Cancer Center in Houston, said patients say their quality of life is improved just by "not giving up." "Patients should be reassured

and physicians who are referring patients should not feel that this is an ethical dilemma," said Kurzrock, co-author of an accompanying editorial in the journal.

Study: Leaky heart valves pose threat

By Stephanie Nano

The Associated Press

People with severely leaky heart valves that cause no symptoms a situation thought to be relatively harmless - actually are in danger of dving and should consider surgery to get the problem fixed right away, a new study suggests.

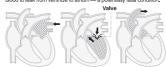
Such people are five times more likely to die of a heart problem or develop heart failure or an irregular heartbeat than those with mild leakage, researchers at the Mayo Clinic reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine

Their study involved the mitral valve, which connects the upper left chamber with the heart's main pumping chamber. If the valve's two flaps don't close tight-ly, blood can leak back into the upper chamber when the heart contracts.

Most people don't feel any thing, but if it gets gets worse, they can develop shortness of

Mitral valve's role in the heart's work

Oxygenated blood from lungs enters the heart in the left atrium, which squeezes blood into left ventricle, which then pumps blood via the aorta thoughout the body. A defective mitral valve allows blood to leak from ventricle to atrium - a potentially fatal condition.



Blood enters left atrium. Left ventricle fills

Blood is pumped out

Source: New England Journal of Medicine

breath, fatigue, dizziness and pal-

The Mayo researchers used a relatively new ultrasound technique to take measurements of the hearts of 456 patients who

nitations

had leaky valves.

"When it's severe, it's fixable. And we can determine when it's severe now with new tech-niques," said Dr. Maurice Enriquez-Sarano, who led the study

Brain 'pacemaker' could lift depression

By CAROLYN ARRAHAM

Toronto Globe and Mail Jeanne Harris had felt so de-

pressed for so long that she was willing to let doctors drill two holes in her head and implant electrodes in her brain, in one of the most radical mood-altering experiments on the medical books.

Depression first seized Harris 10 years ago. Since then, she had sobbed through an entire sum-mer on her condo balcony, spent six months in bed, shunned food and friends and fought off steady thoughts of suicide

Nothing had worked, neither medication nor psychotherapy. But today, two years after she agreed to take part in the landmark Canadian experiment, Harris could hardly be happier for the electrodes buried in her brain: two wires, nearly as thick as spaghetti and a foot long, pulsing 130 times a second to silence the negativity of her mind.

"It is an unbelievable, dramatic change for me," said the 50-year-old Harris. "For the first time in 10 years, I feel alive. I have energy, it's like a light bulb being turned on.

Four of the six patients who participated in the unprecedented investigation, led by scientists at the Baycrest Center's Rotman Research Institute and the University of Toronto, report experiences similar to Harris.

"Some people will say this is pretty extreme, but this condition is pretty extreme," said clinical neurologist Helen Mayberg, describing the therapy known as deep brain stimulation, or DBS. "I never could have dreamed that

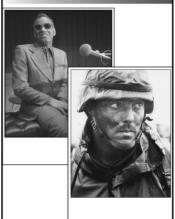
fect that we've seen."

Mayberg is lead author of the study to be published this week in the journal Neuron. DBS is designed to electrically

stimulate only the brain region known to be overactive in people with the condition.

It is part of an expanding field known as "brain pacemakers," in which doctors implant devices that electrically alter neural cir-cuits to treat disorders such as Parkinson's disease and epilepsy.

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Millionaire takes aim at airport ID policy

BY DENNIS RODDY Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

SAN FRANCISCO — John Gilmore's splendid isolation began July 4, 2002, when, with defiance aforethought, he strolled to the Southwest Airlines counter at Oakland Airport and presented his tick-

The gate agent asked for his ID.

Gilmore asked her why.
It is the law, she said.

Gilmore asked to see the law. Nobody could produce a copy. To date,

nobody has. What started out as a weekend trip to Washington became a crawl through the courts in search of an answer to Glimore's question: Why? In post 9/11 America, asking "Why?" when someone from an airline asks for identification can start some interesting arguments. Glimore, who learned to argue on the debate team in his hometown of Bradford, Pa, has started an argument that, should it reach its intended target, the U.S. Supreme Court, would turn the rules

Entrepreneur, unwilling to show identification without seeing law that requires it, grounded

of national security on end, reach deep into the tug-of-war between private rights and public safety, and play havoc with the De-

partment of Homeland Security.
At the heart of Gilmore's stubbornness is the worry about the thin line between safety and tyranny.

"Basically what they want is a show of obedience," Gilmore said.

As happens to the disobedient, Gilmore

As happens to the disobedient, Gilmore is grounded. He is rich — he estimates his net worth at \$30 million — and cannot fly inside the United States. Nor can he ride Amtrak, rent a room at most major hotels, or easily clear security in the courthouses where his case, Gilmore v. Ashoroft, is to be heard. In a time when more and more people and places demand some form of government-issued identification, Gilmore offers only his 49-year-old face.

He was employee No. S at Sun Microsystems, which made Unix, the free software of the Web, the world standard. He japed the government by cracking its premier security code. He campaigned to keep the software that runs the Internet free of charge. After he left Sun, Gilmore started his own firm, sold it for more money that is own firm, sold it for more money started since devoted his time to giving it away to favored causes drug law reform, a campaign to standardize computer voting machines and the Electronic Frontier Foundation, something of an ACLU for the Information, something of an ACLU for the Information.

Yes, he said, there is a certain odd flavor to the notion that someone shouldn't have to show ID to board a plane, but with magnetometers at the gates, guards with security wands, fortified cockpit doors and sky marshals abounding, Gilmore is asking just how much citizens are giving up when they hand their driver's licenses to a third party, in this case an airline, where it is put into a database they cannot see, to meet a law that, as it turns out, they are not allowed to reak.

Gilmore will show ID for an international flight because he doesn't expect to set the rules for other nations.

"I'm not willing to show a passport to travel in my own country," Gilmore said. "I used to laugh at countries that had internal passports. And it's happened here and people don't even seem to know about it."

The regulation under which the Transportation Safety Administration, an arm of the Department of Homeland Security, instructs the airlines to collect such identification is classified as "Sensitive Security Information."

That, says Gilmore's lawyer, Jim Harrison, is the enigma of the case: "It's about the ability of the citizens of this country to be able to move about the country, to move about freely, without being subject to laws they can't see."

With upcoming flight, questions surround NASA

mation Age

BY LEE BOWMAN

Scripps Howard News Service

NASA's loss of the space shuttle Columbia and all seven astronauts aboard in 2003 rocked a space agency already hurting from a tight budget, multiple missions and uncertainty of its future.

Now, with a launch window of May 15 through June 3 set for the flight of the shuttle Discovery, NASA's readiness to fly is again coming under intense scrutiny.

In fact, both the Discovery flight and the flight of sister ship Atlantis, set for July, are considered experimental trips to confirm that new safety techniques work, with extraordinary precautions and new backups in place.

tions and new backups in place.

Here, in question-and-answer format, some of the facts and doubts that still surround the mission are explained.

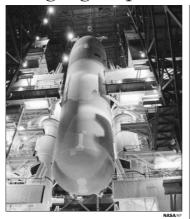
Of the shuttle was damaged from debris from the fuel tank, and they have fixed that flaw, what's the concern?

A The way the tank is anacine.

A the shuttle and the way foam is sprayed onto the tank have been changed, and there have been extensive computer and lab tests that indicate they'll work. But some small bits of foam are still expected to fall off the tank, just, hopefully, nothing big enough to do serious damage to the skin of the spacecraft.

There was a lot of criticism that NASA didn't have adequate resources on the ground or in space to spot the debris or the damage to the wing. How has that changed for the new mission?

A The Columbia Accident Inwestigation Board recommended new ground and in-flight
systems that use radar, video and
still cameras to provide clear photos. There are also provisions for
using images from military say
satellites. Going beyond the
board's recommendations, NASA
flights be done in daylight to give
maximum visibility to anything
that goes wrong.



Space shuttle Discovery's external fuel tank is lowered into position Monday at the vehicle assembly building at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. Discovery is scheduled for launch May 15.

What happens if all this surveillance detects something hitting the shuttle?

A Discovery will carry new sensors to detect damage to the hull of the ship, a robotic boom with a camera in the cargo bay that can do inspections, and the crew will have the ability to do space walks to survey in person.

If damage is found, and it's not too severe, an attempt to repair the damage will be made with any of five repair kits that have been developed.

Will NASA risk another crew returning with a damaged ship and untested repair techniques? A Along with many safety experts outside NASA, shuttle Commander Eileen Collins and her fellow crew members have expressed reservations about that. The alternative would be to dock with the space station and "shelter" there until another shuttle could reach them.

Could NASA survive another shuttle failure, even if the crew were rescued?

crew were rescued?

Another accident might well dend the shuttle program and the space station, but NASA or some remnant would remain because the United States is a space-faring nation with too many interests and too much prestige at stake to abandon human space flight entirely.



Lehigh University professor Arnold Marder holds up pieces of debris from the space shuttle Columbia disaster during his class Monday at the university's Whitaker Laboratory's Failure-Analysis Lab in Bethlehem, Pa. Students at the school are studying the debris.

College students examine pieces of doomed shuttle

BY MICHAEL RUBINKAM The Associated Press

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — When the space shuttle Columbia broke apart over Texas, it scattered 84,000 pieces of debris, most of which have never been closely analyzed.

Now, two years after the disaster that killed seven astronauts. Lehigh University students are getting a rare look at these unexamined parts — and NASA hopes their findings might contribute to the design of the next generation of space vehicles.

The eastern Pennsylvania school known for its engineering and science programs is the first university in the nation to be given access to the shuttle debris. A shipment of 50 pieces arrived last week.

Seniors are looking at each part under powerful electron and light microscopes, trying to determine when and why the part stopped working and how it reacted under the extreme forces to which it was subjected.

Microscopy will reveal the "telltale signs of the mode of failure," said Lehigh professor Arnold Marder, a materials science expert.

NASA's collaboration with Lehigh is part of a program under which pieces of the shuttle are being released to the aerospace industry for research. Students will present their findings to NASA officials in April.

While NASA scientists have given every piece of debris a cursory examination, most of their efforts were focused on the hunk of foam that tore away from the fuel tank during liftoff and caused a gash in the shut le's left wing. That gash led to Columbia's destruction during re-entry.

FACES

Designer gives birth

Designer Stella McCartney and her husband have named their infant son.



nle's first child

Miller Alasdhair James Willis was born Friday in London, weighing pounds, 7 ounces, to McCartney, the daugh-ter of Paul McCartnev, and her husband. asdhair Willis. Peo ple magazine Tuesday

Willis, a former magazine publisher, and McCartney, 33, were married in August 2003. It is the cou-

Stamos marriage is over

The marriage between Rebecca Romijn and John Stamos is officially over

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Harvey A. Silberman signed off on the family law judgment Thursday, nearly a year after the couple announced they were separating after five years of marriage.

The marriage was officially terminated as of Tuesday, according to the document.

as of Tuesday, according ... The couple have no children. Town" with Ben Affleck. Her screen credits include "Rollerball" and "Femme Fa-Stamos, 41, starred on television's "Full House" from 1987 to 1995. He has a new ABC comedy, "Jake in Progress."

Berry stalker faces court

A judge in Santa Monica, Calif., issued a three-year restraining order against a man who allegedly sent threatening letters to Halle Berry's home

Superior Court Judge Linda K. Lefkowitz ruled that Robert Sawyer of San Pablo, about 15 miles northeast of San Francisco, was to stay 100 yards away from Berry and to keep the same distance from her home.

work and vehicle. The order, which expires in 2008, also prohibits him from contacting the actress

by phone, mail or e-mail. Berry wasn't in court Monday when the

covers of Bob Dylan, Leonard

She commands a cult audi-

nce in this country and abroad.

Her songs set her apart from the guitar-strumming pack with tell-

ing details in the music and lyr-

ics that can bring the listener up

short, such as on the sexually frank "Murphy Bed" on "You

Think," or the near-orchestral epic "Cold, Cold Water," which

Cohen and Kurt Weill

judge made her decision

Court records filed on Berry's behalf ear-

lier this month claim Sawver's letters talk about "delusions he has about a purported romantic relationship [with the actress]."

Sawver was contacted by Berry's personal security in November advising him not to reach the actress anymore. But Sawver sent more letters to Berry, including one that said he would visit her on Valentine's Day "to fulfill his delusions of a romantic relationship."

Chaka Khan's son charged

The son of R&B singer Chaka Khan surrendered to police after he learned that prosecutors had charged him with murder in the shooting death of a 17-year-old boy, nolice said

Damien Patrick Holland, 25, surrendered Monday with his lawyers at his side, according to a printed LAPD statement. He is being held on \$2 million bail

Prosecutors allege that Holland shot Christopher Baily of Los Angeles at a September 2004 party as the two struggled for a gun during a fight.

Khan, 51, is known for hits such as "Tell Me Something Good" and "I Feel for You.

More money from 'Rings'

Peter Jackson's production company sued New Line Cinema on claims it has been shortchanged on profits from the first film in the "Lord of

the Rings" trilogy. Wingnut Films alleges in a federal lawsuit filed Monday in Los Angeles that New Line and subsidiary Katia Motion Pictures failed to properly calculate revenue including rev. enue from DVD sales, from 2001's "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring.



The lawsuit doesn't specific an amount sought in damages but claims the movie grossed more than \$314 million in box office receipts in the United States and more than \$556 million overseas, plus revenue from video and merchandise sales

A phone call to a New Line spokesman. wasn't immediately returned late Monday.

Mirah's instant gratification

Singer-songwriter won't let business interfere with creativity

BY DAN DELUCA Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHILADEL PHIA irah Vom Tov Zeitlyn is picking at her granola, talking about what it was like when she started writing songs, and what it's like now

"You know how little kids when you watch them, they pick their noses and do amazing drawings and take off their clothes and pee in their pants and nothing is really that big of a

Kids are "like amazing complete beings within themselves. But at some point you start to go: 'Oh, vou're watching me! Maybe I should stand like this? Or maybe I should do this? You start to think about it. And it's

The indie singer-songwriter. who performs as Mirah (pronounced MEER-ah), grew up here. On a recent Saturday, back home from Portland, Ore., where she lives, Mirah sat for an interview along with her sister, Emily.

Mirah, 30, began writing songs when she was studying at liberal-arts haven Evergreen State College in Olympia Wash the town that's home to influential label K Records, which has put out albums by Sleater-Kinney, Beck, and Beat Happening

Her first album, the low-fi "You Think It's Like This, But Really It's Like This," came out on K in 2000, and it was followed by the stunning "Advisory Com-mittee" in 2001, "Songs From mittee" Black Mountain Project" (a collaboration with Ginger Brooks Takahashi), and last year's quietly stirring 'C'mon Miracle."

In 2004, she also released "To All We Stretch the Open Arm," a subtle antiwar record, recorded with Portland's Black Cat Orchestra, that mixed originals

"But the skills you need to write songs and play music don't have anything to do with having a music-theory background or having played since you were a kid. It's just not important. You can just start doing it."

The Zeitlyns grew up in an environment conducive to creativi-

Their mother, Elizabeth, is a painter, and father Jay, "has re-ally eclectic musitaste, Emily, "World

and klezmer and gospel, and all kinds of stuff. He me this gave Simone Nina record when I

44 When I first music started writing songs, I couldn't even plau the guitar. ??

> Mirah Singer-songwriter

lan's farm, north of Scranton, Pa., harvesting maple syrup. Phil Elvrum, of

the band the Microphones, pro-duces Mirah's albums, in which snacious arrange. ments are flavored with out-of-the-ordinary instrumental touches, from

ukuleles to numn

organs to tape

loops He's enamored of her "powerfully beautiful voice" but says she's also "very good at letting me into her songs, ... She's gener ous with her personal 'work,' but also sturdy enough to have it still be unquestionably hers when

Mirah says she has never had an overarching plan for her career, which as she gets older "has me a little concerned. But one of the reasons that I don't have a plan [now] is that I didn't [originally], and things are fine But at the same time, I think maybe things would be better if id have a plan."

Mirah who manages herself also worries about the distractions of the music business getting in the way of her creativity. To that end, she puts herself in situations that force her to stretch herself creatively

In 2003, she traveled to Bue nos Aires, where she recorded two songs with Kasson that wound up on "C'mon Miracle." and later this year she plans to re treat to a Puget Sound island with Elyrum to write and record.

"The business aspect is very distracting; the state of mind I have to be in is counterproductive to being a creative artist," Mirah says. "It makes me have to think about myself. And I want to be able to do things



Experts: Keeping glass half full gets job done

High morale is best medicine for productivity

BY CANDACE GOFORTH Knight Ridder Newspapers

AKRON, Ohio - It didn't take a scientist to figure out that grumpy people make others feel and feeling lousy makes them less productive at work.

But, in fact, researchers have quantified the effect of chronic negativity. And you'd never have guessed how expensive those scowls can be

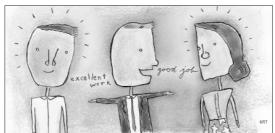
Negativity costs the U.S. economy \$300 billion a year — and researchers consider that a conservative estimate.

smiles Unfortunately, sunny outlooks can't be mandated in the company manual

But managers can neutralize and even reverse damaging negativity through the measured use employee recognition and

And there's a scientific formula for that, too, said Tom Rath, glopractice leader strengths-based development for the Gallup Organization and co-author of "How Full is Your Bucket? Positive Strategies for Work and Life." Rath wrote the book with his grandfather, Donald O. Clifton.

The metaphor goes like this: Everyone has an invisible bucket



that is either filled or emptied with each interaction with another person (positive exchanges add to the bucket, negative ex-

changes take from it). When our buckets are full, we feel cheerful and spread our posi-

tive energy to others. When our buckets are empty. we are gloomy and send our negative vibe out to the world. In the working world, that translates to

hampered productivity. Underlying the full-bucket philosophy is the principle of encouraging and developing employees' strengths, where they have the most potential for greatness, rather than pushing for improvement in areas of weakness.

"Sometimes, it's not so great to be well-rounded." Rath said. "Those sharp edges can be a

It isn't easy to apply science to something as intangible as negativity. But the theory behind Rath's book is backed by 50 years of Gallup research and scientific studies.

This research suggests a happy, productive work force is dependent on a "magic ratio" of positive to negative interactions.

Forget the principles you learned in junior high science class. In this case, one positive does not cancel out a negative The magic ratio Rath talks about calls for three positive interactions for every one negative.

That explains why an unpleasant exchange with a surly co-worker can ruin a perfectly good mood. But, as Rath's charts show, that surly co-worker is more than just a drain on a work force's collective psyche, he's a

drain on productivity, too. A recent Gallup survey showed that employees who received regular praise and recognition we more productive, more likely to stay with their employer, received higher satisfaction scores from customers and had better on-the-job safety records.

So just shower your workers with unending positive reinforce-ment, right? Wrong.

Praise can be overdone, Rath aid. Just as researchers have identified the ideal balance of pos itive and negative interactions for productivity, they have quantified exactly how many back slaps are too many

"Too much positive is not grounded in reality, it's not sincere or deserved," Rath said. "It's seen as just being Pollyanna

Staving positive

1. Prevent "bucket dip-

Start by setting an example yourself. Make an effort to have positive exchanges with others. When you encounter someone who is chronically negative and will not change, avoid interactions with him whenever possible.

2. Shine a light on what's

Instead of pointing out weakness and areas where there is room for improvement, focus on the positive.

3. Make best friends.

Everyone wants to be with people they like. Cultivating se relationships at work re sults in higher productivity, greater employee retention and better safety records.

4. Give unexpectedly.

The most valued gifts aren't always anticipated. In addition to milestone awards sales goals, years of service reward small accomplishments in a meaningful way. Sometimes the gift of responsibility is the most meaningful.

5. Reverse the golden rule. "Do unto others as they would have you do unto them.

In other words, don't give one-size-fits all recognition. Customize the reward to the recipient.

- KRT

EXCHANGE RATES WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

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1.521.3	0 1,150.	74 Am	ex Inde	X		1.514.	63	-1.15	08	+5.60	+20.73
2,191.6				mposite		2,067.		-3.75	18	-4.96	+1.68
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NortelN If	334688	2.93	+.03	DITA Diam	76341	108.07	14	Microsoft	67142	8 25.26	02
Econombi	258479	62.68	+.58	iShJapan	74740	10.84	05	Cisco	57483	7 17.74	+.24
Pfizer	231474	26.61		Halozyme	n 67661	1.92	+.12	TibcoSft	52270		-1.86
TimeWarn	176744	17.72	+.13	SP Engy	61155	43.63	+.63	Oracle	49214		10
GenElec Texinst	176153 146875	35.60 26.97	+.38	OilSvHT SP Fncl	52395 46258	96.05 29.87	+1.15	SunMicro JDS Unioh	41444 39491	7 4.22 6 1.90	+.03
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South Korean won (March 3)981.00
Euro costs (March 3)	\$1.349
Dollar buys (March 3)	€0.7412
British pound (March 3)	\$1.97
Commercial rate	5
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.9128
Canada (Dollar)	1.2394
Denmark (Krone)	5.6712
Egypt (Pound)	5.8000
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7994
I Hungary (Forint)	184.36
Iceland (Krona)	59.45
Israel (Shekel)	4.3305
Japan (Yen)	104.67
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2919
Norway (Krone)	6.2630
Philippines (Peso)	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7509
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6257
South Korea (Won)	1004.52
Switzerland (Franc)	
Thailand (Baht)	38.33
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(Military exchange rates	are those
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illable to customers at military bank-raclilities in the country of issuance Japan, South Korea, Germany, the heriands and the United Kingdom. nonlocal currency exchange rates nonlocal currency exchange rates to check with your local military bank-facility. Commercial rates are inter-her has provided for reference when ying currency. All figures are foreign rencies to one oldlar, except for the tish pound, which is represented in 183*10-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

+1.8 -.6 +1.8 +1.5 +1.5 -1.1 +.7 +2.6 +1.6 -1.4

Prime rate5.5	io
Discount rate3.5	
Federal funds market rate2.5	
3-month bill2.7	
30-year bond4.7	
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of	ρţ

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Beware of car incentives

MarketWatch

NEW YORK - More and more auto dealers are offering incentives - rebates, dealer cash and other rewards - to draw you to their lots.

But before you bite, make sure you're really getting a deal. So warns Bob Kurilko, vice pres ident of Edmunds.com, a Web site that offers comparison-shopping guides for cars.

Customers know to look for incentives, and many industry gi ants are getting around that by ladling on the incentives and then jacking up the manufacturer's suggested retail price, or MSRP. "It gives the appearance of a better deal." Kurilko says. "But what are you - the buyer - really netting? Not much.'

Other manufacturers are lowering their MSRPs and not offering incentives, Kurilko says, so the key is to look at the real value of the car you're buying. Vehicles without incentives depreciate less quickly. However, vehicles with incentives tend to give the dealer more leeway to offer good financing for the buyer.

To make sure vou're getting the best deal. Kurilko recommends checking for incentives on the car models you're considering.

Edmunds.com allows you to get price quotes in your area for a specific make and model, and will list any known incentives being offered.

Doing your research make a big difference. While some incentives are well-advertised, others aren't, such as bonuses for military personnel or for selecting on-site financing. And the dealer isn't likely to tell you about them, not if he or she wants to profit from the sale.

Once you know what incentives are available in your area, compare the prices of various models, apples-to-apples. It will be transparent, Kurilko says, which incentives are there to cut an inflated MSRP and where the real deals are.

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Grade-school errors frequent

I've noted with pleasure recent letters encouraging proper use of the English language, I. too, cringe when I'm "orientated guage. 1, 00, cange when I'm "orientated" to a map showing the location of a recently captured "kash-ay.'" ("No cashet with 'kash-ay,'" letter, Feb. 17)

I find it unfortunate that soldiers may exhibit great valor, skill and endurance only to receive a medal whose citation contains a grade school-level grammatical error. Staff officers routinely allow lower-level commanders to commit their signature to a flawed document that a soldier may want to proudly frame and display.

My actions reflect upon me, your actions reflect you, and his actions reflect upon him — not "himself." The military com-monly misuses the reflexive pronoun (those pronouns ending in "self/selves"). Reflexive pronouns must "reflect" either a subjective pronoun (I, we, you, he, she, it,

they, who) or a noun: I myself, we ourselves, the Army itself, and so forth. We would not say, "His house fell upon himself." The sentence should therefore read, His actions reflect great credit upon him, his command, and the United States

Saturday, March 5, 2005

Consider one of the last two Medal of Honor citations signed by a president of the United States; "Master Sergeant [Garv Ivan Gordon returned to the wreckage, re covering a rifle with the last five rounds of ammunition and gave it to the pilot with the words, 'good luck.' Then, armed only with his pistol, Master Sergeant Gordon continued to fight until he was fatally wounded. His actions saved the pilot's life Master Sergeant Gordon's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest standards of military service and reflect great credit upon, his unit and the United States Army."

Maj. David S. Johnson Baghdad

Apolitical system best for DOD civilians

s promised, the Defense Department has followed the Department of Homeland Security in proposing new rules on promotion and pay for its 770,000 civilian employees Like those proposed at DHS, the new Defense Department rules are intended to modernize a large and often unwieldy bureaucracy, and to better prepare it for the post-Sept. 11 world. As at DHS, the Pentagon's new system sounds terrific on paper.

The proposed regulations advocate an "agile and responsive workforce," "fiscally sound" management, and a "credible and trusted" system that ensures accountability and fairness. The new arrangement, known as the National Security Personnel System. is above all intended to link pay more closely to employee performance. Subtly, it may even give performance priority over seniority in hiring and firing decisions.

And - just like the Department of Home-

land Security's proposed changes — the pro-posed Defense Department civil service re-form raises a number of alarms. This is not because it is wrong in principle, but rather because it contains in practice a number of changes that could, if not monitored, lead to the greater politicization of what should be a neutral government department. An extremely complex system of distributing performance-based pay is proposed, with few details about how performance will actually be measured. It isn't immediately clear, for example, how performance measures in the new system will differ from those in the existing system. Without clarity — and exten-sive training for managers — it would take very little for politicization to creep in.

Second, this proposed reform, even more

than its predecessors, appears to curtail union rights in unnecessary ways. Although Pentagon officials denv it, some government employee unions say that they were not properly consulted on the new rules, as the law requires, and they have filed a lawthey say managers are allowed but not required to bargain with unions over job placements and assignments; the new rules appear to forbid any bargaining. The same is true of decisions about overtime. Officials ought to explain what, if anything, these changes have to do with national security, as opposed to weakening the unions More important, Congress ought to ask for explanations and explore in greater

Union officials also say the new rules

seem designed to take away workers' rights.

without any clear explanation of why this is

necessary. At the moment, for example,

depth the whole issue of civil service reform. Because these personnel decisions involve so many people, and could have such national impact, lawmakers should consider stepping in to help define what performance criteria mean, to preserve a meaningful appeals process and to ensure that unions stay involved in government employee affairs, at least when there is no reason to har them

Doonesbury Flashbacks









BY GARRY TRUDEAU

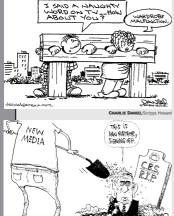
Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Looking at the news

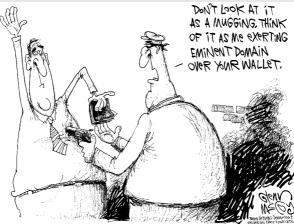
A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



GLENN McCoy/Universal Press Syndicate







PAGE 20 J 9/3464646184 STARS AND S

Bizarre goat trade

PA MOUNT PLEASANT - Four men stole, killed and butchered a goat so they could trade its meat for crack cocaine, police said

Authorities charged the four men with theft, receiving stolen property, cruelty to animals, and criminal conspiracy on Tuesday for the Dec. 24 incident in Bull-

skin Township, about 35 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

James Walter Albright, 37, dragged the 4-year-old pygmy goat from its pen with a rope and tied the animal to a shrub, where he and Charles W. Smith Jr., 20, killed the animal by beating its head with a hammer or a steel pipe, police said

The men then took the goat to Smith's residence, where his father, Charles W. Smith, 48, and Gilhert Wesley Fisch 38 skinned the animal and cut it up, police said.

8 years for fatal crash

HI HONOLULU — A highway racer who caused a fatal traffic accident was sentenced in Circuit Court to eight years in prison. Nicholas Tudisco, 21, pleaded no

contest in November to manslaughter for the death of Elizabeth Kekoa, 58, a teacher at Holy Trinity School.

Tudisco had admitted he was going more than 100 miles per hour on the H-1 freeway in August 2001 when his car crashed into Kekoa's van.

Kekoa's husband, Wally, who was driving the van, and her mother, Rose Davis, were also injured in the crash. Tudisco was not hurt.

Home had border tunnel

CA SAN DIEGO — U.S. and Mexican authorities investigating a cross-border tunnel found the entrance in a middle-class residence in Mexicali, Mexico, and believe the passage ends about 100 yards north in a residential area of

It was the third tunnel discovered in the area in 15 months. Authorities suspect the tunnel was used to ferry drugs across the bor-

The 3-by-5-foot passage, which started in a back bedroom of the Mexicali home, is equipped with ventilation and lighting systems, and lined with wood beams for support. Outside the entrance, a closed-circuit camera system provided security, Mexican authorities said.

The residence was found abandoned, and no arrests have been

Limits on beach surreys

VA VIRGINIA BEACH — The city is considering limits on the gawky, pedel-powered surreys that tourists ply along the resort's beach front.

The four-wheel tourist-mobiles have grown from 10 in 1998 to more than 170 today. There are about 28 rental establishments in the resort. City officials want to limit the number of surreys to five per operator, for a total of 140, and charge a \$100 annual fee for each surrev

For police, it's a matter of public safety.

Loaded with four to six adults.

surreys can easily top 1,000 pounds. "They can get a lot of mo-



mentum," said police Capt. Dennis Free, who was smacked by a sur-rey on his rounds last summer.

"We're seeing enough minor incidents that we want to get some intervention before something major happens.

Toddler missing in river

EAGLE PASS — Authorities on both sides of the border were trying to find a 20-month-old boy who fell into the Rio Grande while being carried

across the river from Mexico. The toddler and his mother were part of a group of six undocumented immigrants crossing the river near Eagle Pass. Border Patrol agents heard the woman's cries.

"Her 11/2-year-old boy had slipped into the current as they crossed. Someone was carrying him, and the current was too much. He lost his grip on the child," said Dennis Smith, a Border Patrol spokesman.

U.S. agents have been searching by ground and air, along with Mexican emergency crews.

Pharmicist's refusal

WI MADISON — A Roman Catholic pharmacist who blocked a woman's attempt to fill a prescription for birth control pills should be reprimanded and required to attend ethics classes, a judge ruled.

Administrative Law Judge Colleen Baird recommended the pun-ishment for Neil Noesen of St. Paul, Minn., who said it would be a sin under his religion to provide a contraceptive

He refused in July 2002 to fill



Heels over head

Patrick Dabrowski, 6, falls out of his sled while enjoying a snow day from school in Bristol, Conn.

the woman's prescription himself or transfer it to another pharmacv

Noesen's attorney. Williams-Oby, Krystal said Wisconsin law does not address the issue, nor do state rules established by the Pharmacy Examining Board.

Baird noted that state rules prohibit pharmacists from engaging in practices that could be a "danger to the health, welfare or safety of a patient or public." Baird found Noesen put the woman at risk of an unwanted pregnancy through his actions The judge's recommendation goes to the pharmacy board.

Settlement in mice suit

MD BALTIMORE — An Indiana company has agreed to pay \$7.2 million to settle allegations it supplied researchers aging with genetically modified mice that did not have the traits

Federal prosecutors said Tuesday that Harlan, Sprague, Dawley Inc. of Indianapolis supplied the mice under contract to the National Institute of Aging, based in Bethesda, Md.

The exact nature of the research and the specific traits that the laboratory mice were supposed to have were not disclosed

Sign-wearing sentence

FI ORLANDO — If drivers can't read Erik Rivera's sign, they might be going too fast. Rivera used to speed and street race on late nights through south Orange County. Now he goes at a slower pace, wearing a sign: "Don't Street Race. I Lost my Driv-

ers License for 3 Years Orange Circuit Judge John H. Adams Sr. ordered 24-year-old Rivera, of Kissimmee, to wear the sandwich-board sign as a deter-

rent to other racers. Rivera was arrested in June and convicted in November of fleeing and eluding deputies and resisting law enforcement without violence will Rivera wear 2-foot-by-3-foot sign for 50 consecutive Sundays from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m., when other young people are out racing. He must also pay for the sign and attend a special driv-

Escapee faces charges

ing school.

ME LEWISTON — A 17-year-old escapee from the Long Creek Youth Development Center faces a charge of attempted murder in the weekend shooting of a Lewiston man first-floor apartment, police said.

The shooting victim, Tyler Morin, 19, was listed in stable condition at Central Maine Medical Center, where he was being treated for gunshot wounds to the chest and shoulder.

Twenty minutes after Morin dialed 911 early Sunday to report the shooting, a Sagadahoc County sheriff's deputy spotted the suspect in a vehicle in Topsham and pulled it over. The youth fled into a wooded area, said Lewiston Police Sgt. Michael McGonagle.

McGonagle said the boy was eventually returned to the South Portland youth center, from which he had escaped Oct. 30. In addition to attempted murder, he faces charges of burglary of a motor vehicle, eluding police and escape.



Wicked big lobster Bubba, left, a 23-pound lobster pulled from the waters off Nantucket, Mass., is shown next to an average lobster (1.5 pounds) at Wholey's Fish Market in Pittsburgh. The big crustacean, probably 30 to 50 years old, was to get a landlocked home, but he died in Pittsburgh Zoo's quarantine area. The cause of death was probably stress from the move, officials said.



A fire in Billings, Mont., is seen from Burning brightly three miles away. An assisted-living facility under construction was destroyed by the fire. Two townhouses were severely damaged. Fire Marshal Frank Odermann said it will be quite a while before they can determine what caused the blaze.



Ben Gregory, 12, hops Leapin' lizards! He's good! through some tricks on a pogo stick to impress his friends after school in Granite City. III.



Wyoming Game and Fish Department herpetological coordinator Bill Giant tortoise rescued Turner takes photos and measurements of a giant tortoise east of Cheyenne, Wyo. The reptile, an unlikely visitor to Wyoming, was found near a road by Terri Smith, who was walking her dog. Smith's husband, Ken Smith, brought the tortoise back to their home until Game and Fish could examine it. They told the Smiths it probably was a desert tortoise, native to the Southwest.



Dressed for the weather A dog named Tyson of Brookline, Mass., looks pretty sulky about wearing a raincoat while walking with his owner, Fatima Fatal. in Brookline, Mass.



Sending it soaring Kersh Peterson, a sophomore at Clemson University, takes a break from studies to help his friend. Daniel Craft, launch his stunt kite on Kite Hill in Clemson, S.C.



An American robin feeds on berries in a tree near Ann Arbor, Mich., Think he's confused? on a snowy day. Traditionally, robins are the harbingers of spring, but Wednesday's forecast calls for scattered snow sho

No pay, no homework

CA BERKELEY — Students in the Berkeley school district aren't getting written homework assignments because teachers are refusing to grade work on their own time after two years without a pay raise.

"Teachers do a lot with a little. All of a sudden, a lot of things that they do are just gone. It's demoralizing," said Rachel Baker, who has a son in kindergarten.

The action was organized by the Berkelev Federation of Teachers. which wants a cost-of-living increase next year.

District Superintendent Michele Lawrence expressed sympathy for the teachers but said there isn't money for raises. She blamed Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger not providing as much money to education as promised.

Chicken fights busted up

GA CLARKESVILLE — Authorities arrested 33 people after busting a chicken fight

The Habersham County sheriff's office received an anonymous tin about the fight, and as officers arrived about 100 people fled the venue, described by Sheriff DeRay Fincher as a "a full-fledged operation." where bleachers were set up and organizers were charging admissio

The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources took custody of the chickens after no one stepped forward to claim the live animals, which had to be separated to prevent them from fighting.

Hypnotist accused

CT MILFORD — A British hypnotist charged with having sex with patients under his spell and secretly videotaping the encounters was sentenced Monday to 90 days in prison and faces possible deportation to England. Michael Johnstone, 64, had

pleaded no contest to reckless endangerment and breach of peace. As part of a plea deal, he received three years in prison with all but 90 days suspended. He will not have to register as a sex offender or attend sex therapy.

Authorities said Johnstone confessed to having sex and videotaping the trysts with a half-dozen patients who came to him for anxiety treatment. The incidents allegedly occurred between 2000 and 2003.

Prosecutors said immigration officials are investigating and may detain Johnstone after his sen-

Beating by cops alleged

MILWAUKEE - Three police officers were charged in the beating of a man outside a house party in what witnesses have called a racially motivated at-

Witnesses said about 10 people surrounded Frank Jude Jr., beat him and kicked him in the head while holding his arms behind his back when he was face down in the street.

According to claims filed against the city by Jude and others, the white officers — Jon Bartlett, Daniel I. Masarik and Andrew R Spengler — used racial slurs as they attacked Jude, who is black.

The three officers, who all remain suspended with pay, were released after posting \$5,000 bail

Sparch for arconict

WASHINGTON — Investi-gators on Tuesday upped the ante in their search for a serial arsonist

They nearly tripled the reward from \$35,000 to \$100,000 — for information leading to an arrest and conviction of the person behind more than 40 fires.

The arsons began March 8, 2003, in the District of Columbia

Since then, there have also been cases in Prince George's and Montgomery counties in Maryland, and Fairfax County and the city of Alexandria in Virginia. The most recent was Dec. 10 in Northeast Washington. Forty-five fires and one attempt-

ed arson are linked to the suspect. A Northeast Washington fire on June 5, 2003 — one of two that day - killed an elderly woman.

Taser sparks criticism

CO AURORA — Police found themselves in the crosshairs of public criticism after officers used a Taser stun gun to subdue a man accused of pilfering from a salad bar at a Chuck E Cheese's pizzeria packed with families and young children.
"They beat this man in front of

all these kids, then Tased him in my sister's lap," said witness Felicia Mayo who was at the establishment with her 7-year-old son. "They had no regard for the effect this would have on the kids. This is Chuck E. Cheese, you know

Police responded to Chuck E. Cheese's after a manager complained that a patron had refused to show proof that he had paid for

Church, school vandalism

CA DAVIS — Swastikas, racist graffiti and satanic messages were spray-painted on two schools and a church, stunning members of this liberal college town and sparking a multiagency hate-crimes investigation.

"I'm just so sickened by what's happened," said Mayor Ruth Asmundson

The vandalism occurred less than two years after the city and its school district held a series of emotional public meetings concerning hate crimes committed by a few of the city's youths. At the meetings, dozens of students and local residents described acts of bigotry and racism in the community that they believed were being ignored by local officials

Dolphin release

PORT ST. LUCIE — Bashful, Sleepy and Sneezy three of the 37 rough-toothed dolphins that beached themselves on the Florida coast in August — are heading home.

Officials with Mote Marine Labour ratory, where the three dolphins survived hurricanes and the deaths of four pod mates, plan to release the deep-sea animals in the Atlantic Ocean.

The release is the culmination of efforts by scores of veterinarians and volunteers who fought to keep the stranded dolphins alive after they were found in the surf just south of the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant.

Stories and photos from wire service

Hobbes

and

Calvin

Start

SO MIEND

Horoscope

A new cycle for communication has started with Mercury entering Arties. This transit usually accompanies big news, which could be global, personal or both. The moon in Capricom brings focus to traditional roles, but we'll be reinterpreting how we play them over

the weekend. Be open to expressing yourself in a way you've never tried before. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(March 5). Your commitment to self-improvement makes this a banner year. Kege exploring zany ideas through the spring — your love life will benefit from the creative infusion. A persistent problem is solved in May. Finances can be better applied somewhere else as a resultyour best signs for love are Capicom and Leo. You could marry in August.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Calm, cool and collected gets things done. In order to make time your supporter instead of your enemy, recognize that time shifts with your

state of consciousness — and you're the one in control of your state of consciousness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Nobody gives you power — you just take it. The initiative you show, especially socially and personally, makes you so attractive that wherev er you go now, you'll have admirers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Lack of enthusiasm from the rest of the world has deflated your attitude somewhat. Do what it takes to put the "Wow!" back in your life. Don't stop until you've got raving fans. An

Aries will be among them. CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Outreach is key. The more you insulate, the less you enjoy. So even if you're not in the mood, kick yourself out of the house. Make sure your social swirl includes people with intriguing backgrounds and extraordinary taste.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're on a mission, and nothing will get in the way of your mission. And you're no lieutenant commander, either —

you're an admiral on the great seas of life. Believe in your enormous

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The curtain is rising, and you're still scrambling to assemble the set for

your second act. You're caught creating the illusion of your life. People are fascinated by the behind-the-scenes version of you and could fall in

LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). Reacting to outer chaos is draining and unnecessary. Stop yourself from feeling the victim — you're so not the victim. Get centered, and dwell on this belief in-

stead: You have enough of everything you need to succeed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Self-control is the main issue, as there is now a specific outcome you cannot achieve given your current habits. Know your enemy, even when it appears in a socially acceptable and cleverly disouised form.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've got a case of compare-and-contrast-itis. Your soul's expression is unique and cannot

pare-and-contrast-itis. Your soul's expression is unique and cannot happen through anyone else. So stop measuring and judging, and start expressing what's inimitably you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is no "dirty work," just work that you are more or less suited for. You get a sense of accomplishment from doing the very ligh someone also hates, and some inch someone also hates, and some inches the complex componers are some inches and some inches

complishment from doing the very job someone else hates, and someone else is thrilled to take that nagging task off of your list. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll experience a magical synchro-

You i expenence a magical synamo nization with your fellow man. Like Chinese people practicing tai chi by the Whangpoo River, no one is in charge, and yet everyone seems to be moving together perfectly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Intellectually, you know the value of proper rest, but your busy mind won't stop chattering long enough to let you really relax. Seek external assistance in the form of guided mediation or a really boring television program.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



I'LL WRITE A LETTER OF PROTEST! I'LL BLOW THIS THING WIDE OPEN!!

















HI, CAN I CALL YOU RACK?







you're

a boy?

















Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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- 10 Villain's faces
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Answer to Previous Puzzle

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GZFGJVKAQ YMEXN E D

F X X B X M D R V G M Q R G Z R V ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU LIKED TO WEAR GOLD TIARAS, I GUESS PEOPLE WOULD REFER TO YOU AS "KARAT TOP:

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals W

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

第3種郵便物認可

Dear Abby

Pregnant 13-year-old needs help

Dear Abby: My best friend, "Mara," is 13. She's pregnant and refuses to tell her parents because she says they will go crazy. I keep telling her that telling her parents is what she should do, but she just won't

listen Mara told me she's going to run away and has asked me to go with her. I would, because she's my best friend, but then I think she should stay because she's having a baby, and if that baby doesn't get enough food and stuff it could be harmed. I'm very con

fused. What should I do? — Confused Little Girl in Ohio

Dear Confused: Running away is no solution. If ever there was a time a child needed her parents, this is one of them. Mara's parents may be disappointed, but they will NOT "go crazy." Urge your friend again to tell her parents, and volunteer to mother, and ask your mother to accompany Mara when she gives them the news.) P.S. You are a caring friend with a good head on your shoulders. I hope Mara calms down and listens to you, because you're absolutely correct

that medical care during pregnancy can be vital in delivering a healthy baby.

Dear Abby: I have been divorced 15 years. Recently my daughter, "Janelle," gave birth to a beautiful baby girl -

my first grandchild. I have put up with a lot from my ex's family over the years, but did it to keep the door open

for my children's sake Janelle is staying with me these first few weeks of her baby's life, so I told my ex and his family they were welcome to

come over any time. Janelle and I were looking at an old family album that conit out on the coffee table. That night. I went out for about an hour while my ex-mother-in-law, sister-in-law and niece came to

When I returned I asked if they had seen the album - and they said they had. The next morning, I was leafing through the album again, and I am missing six pictures! It had to be them because the album was full the day before. What should I do?

 Disgusted in Arizona Dear Disgusted: Call the "ladies" and ask if, perhaps, they "inadvertently" picked up some of your daughter's baby pictures. Ask that they be returned and volunteer to have copies made for them. If they won't own up to taking them, then pray you can locate the negatives. And in the future do not invite them to your

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can writt to Abby on the Internet at to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

home.

one letter to each square

to form four ordinary words RYSAC 6 Tribune Media S Rights Reserved

RYBIN

SHARTH

PERUPA

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WHEN THE ROBBER

WAS CAUGHT ON

THE STEPS

THE COPS SÁID

Yesterday's

POACH AFTER JUSTLY BELLOW Answer: What the trainer gave the greyhound during his morning workout - A FEW "LAPS"

Too much information too often

Family Circus



"If you sneeze when you're alone, should you 'God bless' yourself?"

be with her when she does. (An

Dear Annie: A woman I used to work with is getting on my

nerve "Tallie" and I would take our coffee breaks together. She is legally blind, and I would help her get her beverage and water for her service

dog. That's it. When I left my job Tallie wanted to keep in touch, so we exchanged phone numbers. I thought it would be nice to hear from her occasionally, and for a while it was fine That all changed when Tallie, a newly-

wed, found out she was pregnant Tallie is becoming overly attached to me. She goes to the hospital every week, complaining about some ache or pain, dehydration, lost weight, etc., and then calls me afterward to describe the examination in great detail. I don't want to hear these graphic recitals and suggested she discuss such private matters with her husband, but she won't

Annie's Mailbox

attention, but I am not a trained medical person. She has a husband and close family members to take care of

Last night, Tallie did it again, and I told her flat-out that I find hearing such personal information offensive. She replied, "I'm only trying to keep my best friend updated. You never ask how I'm

doing." I don't want to be Tallie's best friend. She was simply a co-worker, and I've discovered I don't particularly like her. I can't change my phone number, since it belongs to a relative and I don't

How can I nicely avoid her? - Non-Friend

Dear Non-Friend: You need to extricate yourself from being held hostage by this emotionally needy woman. Look into the cost of adding your own phone line with a separate number. Otherwise, when Tallie calls, say, "Sorry, but I have to run. Bye." Then hang up immediately. After a dozen "conversations" like that, she will move on to a more

sympathetic listener Dear Annie: I'd like to say

"right on" to the letter from "Redding, Calif.," who said stores should provide seating for those who have trouble walking. For the last two years, I have been plagued with chronic fa tigue and peripheral neuropathy (an extremely painful nerve disorder of the feet). I have asked the managers in my favorite department stores to provide

seating, to no avail. How much could it possibly cost to throw a few folding chairs out on each floor? I'm considering giving my money to the TV shopping networks instead

- Kara in California Dear Kara: This is another reason why shopping online is so

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmalibox@comeast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, C/o Creators Syndicate, 577 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 9045.

Sid ā

stop. I know she is crying out for Dinner Vas #152-

and we



I LEFT SOME SHAMPDO IN MY HAIR SO IT'LL STAY CLEAN A LOT LONGER."



"Open the gate! It's a big wiener dog!"



STRIPES CLASSIFIED



Selling your couch, your car or your Stephen King collection?

Sell it FREE in Stripes classified.

Up to 32 words FREE for

Free Ad Guidelines:

Free ads are available to DOD ID card holders only. • All free ads mark *matters of h.

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Free ads run for 27 days and on a space available begins of y.

Please spell out of and the college of your addless of y.

- Pleasar spet our water Word. No abbreviations.

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- Free ads are available for private parties only. For information on commercial or in-home business ads, present call 259-3276.

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Autos for Sale

mediatti.net.
Foster - 1992 Toyota ED: Cold A/C, runs, JCI is good until Jan 2006. \$800 OBO call 646-5147.

Foster - 1992 Toyota MR2, JCI 10/06, cold a/c, red, 12 disc CD player, Excellent condition \$3200 OBO call 646-8765 Lv.

Foster - 1992 Toyota Windom Black and Gray with body kit, 17

very clean. JCI good till Feb 2007 \$4,000 obo. Call 646-5539

Foster 1992 White Nissan Bluebird: 145,000 Kilometers, 4-door, cold A/C, JCI due April 2006, Asking \$1,800 OBO it interested call 646-8021.

SEGIO cob. Esceller or enable control of the contro

Foster - 1996 Toyota Ipsum, automatic, aqua green, very clean, excellent condition, cold A/C, AM/FM/CD, PW/PL/PM,

call 645-9029.

Foster 1996 VW Jetta GT.
Very hot car, all black with
performance wheels and ground
effects. Safety includes passenger and driver alithags and
artificide braikes. JCI till 9-05.
Power everything, Gleat stereo.
Burs perfect and includes mainperfect and includes maincar like this in Okinawa. 54450
obo. Call 646-4369 or
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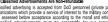
Foster • 93 Mitsubishi Turbo Diesel 4X4: Colo A/C. Seats 8. JCI until F \$3900. Make an offert Gr famillies/camping/sous 646-3589 or or richmondgp@yahoo.com

- Okinawa

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Kadena, Okinawa - Homedics anti-gravity massage chair \$175. Call 633-1513 if interested. Call 633-1513 II Interested.
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less. New belts, light, filters, rear
wheels. \$45 Call 637-4386 or
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040

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Autos for Sale - Japan

146 Atsugi - 1993 Nissan Cedrick -New tires, JCI until Jul 2006, \$ 3 , 3 0 0 O B O . C a I I 080-5487-0503 or 264-3632. Atsugi - 1999 Toyota Cavaller, Red, A/T 12-disc CD changer with remote, key less entry, back-up sensors, JCI until June 2006. Asking \$4,100 OBO. Call Mitchell at 264-6536.

Autos for Sale

Negishi - 91 Toyota Carmy -Gray, CD player, power win-dows and locks. Good condition. \$700 firm Call 090-6116-2116 or 241-3170.

Negishi - 96 Toyota Cavalier -\$4,000 OBO GPS/TV/12 CD, ali regions DVD player. Less than 60K km. Base,0N inspection February 2005, JCI April 2006. New tires, automatic transmis-sion, AIC power windows/sun-roof/locks. Call 242-4505, 090-6478-1847.

great condition, well maintained JCl good till April 2006. Asking \$ 2 , 0 0 0 , 2 4 2 - 4 6 5 1 of 080-5427-5799.

Vokosuka (CFAY) / Yokohama (Negishi) - 1991 Toyota EXIV White 4 Door-Automatic with Power Windows and Locks, A USFW 1992 Toyota and A I A USFW 1992 Toyota and A I June 2005 runs great asking June 2005 runs great asking 1090-6161-1991, 242-4903, 045/281-4903

USE/287-4903 Mitsubish Lancer Evelution. 2 years JCI, Very Clean, Excellent Condition, 52000 in audio(2 12° MTX Subs, 52000 in audio(2 12° MTX Subs, 52001 in audio(2 12° MTX Subs, 52001 years, Custom there places book) 7pt Roll cape, Tint, Decats, and power everything. Decats, and power everything. Cortroller, turbo Timer. Many more extras not listed. Paul \$5,000 for car, invested over \$7000 in car. Asking only \$4000. Call Chris at 227 #2888/pm) or 225-9655/gm)

okota - 1993 Nissan Bluebird March 2006. Runs great, Cold AC. \$1200 OBO. Call Rena

black, 4-door, automatic, runs great, excellent condition, power locks/windows, CD AM/FM play-er with remote, heat, cold a/c, very clean. JCI OCT 06. \$2,500 O.B.O, 227-4600.

Yokota - 1995 Nissan March, Great little Family Car, Low Miles, Excellent shape, Great on Gas, Just did 2 Years JCI. All Fluids Changed this month, Plms and new tires, Paid \$2600 1 month ago, Asking \$2000. Call Chris at 227-9288(pm) or 225-9635(am)

Yokota, Japan - 1993 Toyota Exiv - Black, 4-door, automatic, CD AM/FM player with remote, JCI until Oct. 2006, \$3,000 OBO. Call 227-4600.

Autos for Sale 146

Zama- 1993 Nissan Skyline, 57k or best offer, 2 door sports car, A/C, immaculate condition only two owners, beautiful metallic burguardy exterior, purchased from Nissan dealership, 2003 Sony 200 watt CD player, 55,000 km, CU until September 2005, if interested email: duncanbedarns 8 hotmail com

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Autos for Sale

- Korea Casey - 2002 Ford Explorer XLT 4 wheel drive. Fully loaded only 27,000 miles. \$18,500 or B.O. Call 019-221-1852 ask for Dave. Car is located in the Camp Casey area.

Daegu - 2002 BMW 330i, Mint Condition, 17,000 miles, Fully Loaded, Sport Package, Free Maintenance Warranty, and more. Will email photos and options listing. Asking \$28,500 OBO. Telephone Steve at DSN 764-5089 or 011-511-2059. 44-5089 of UT1-S11-2094. 4X4 shortbed 302 w/brand nee 33' Bridgestone tires need minor engine repairs \$3000. Ca Tommy Camp Mobile DSI 730-1643 or 031-859-1643

Korea - 2002 Hyundai Grander XG Q 25 SE, 27,000 kilometei XG Q 25 SE, 27,000 kilometers (16,000 miles) in great condi-tion, one owner. Black, 4-door, automatic transmission and loa-ded. PCSing. Call George at 017-382-3113 or in evenings at (02) 795-2550. Asking \$11,900. automatic transmission and lo ded. PCSing. Call George 017-352-3113 or in evenings (02) 795-2550. Asking \$11,900

minus rain guards. Sound verifice with no prior accidents or mechanical problems. A must see to appreciate. E-mail for photos: benjamin. hutchinson@us.ammy.mil. POC M SG H UTCHINSON 010-2355-1986 Kunsan - 1990 BMW 320i 2 Dr Cpe, 6 Cyl, AUTO, P/S, P/B, A/C, low miles (70 000) C--AC, low miles (70,000), Sporty spoiler package, Excellent con-dition. Will email pics. Priced to sell now. \$3,700 OBO. Call Mike at DSN 782-5915 or

Jul 1807-1850.

Can - 93 Toyota Evir TR-X
Sport Editon, 2.3 Lifer, 4
cylinder engine, Maron wi Gray
Cloth Interior, Right-Side Steenring Wheel, Auto. Transmission,
Transmission,
Looks, Rear Defrost, ReinathLee Side Mirrors, Spoler,
Seven-Spoke Sport Rims &
Love-Potilie Mol Flaps, dot.
Love-Potilie Mol

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Red Cloud, Korea - 2003 Ford Escape XLT Only 8,000 Miles Dark Blue Metallic Power Win-dows Power Locks Leather Air Condition 6-Disc Changer Call Don at 732-9081 or 010-3040-7145. Taegu, Korea 93 Subani Impreza, 72K, Ask \$4000, OBO, PCSing, Great condition Noon KI inside 8 out, 800W 2-channel amp, 2-12° CV speak-ers, Int, 17° Rims, lowered, grounding kit, radar jammer, racing steering, Ph# 82-53-622-9317

9317
Walker - 1994 Ford Probe GT, 70,000 miles: Really nice. Pioter available. Call Mike @ 764-5888 or 011-9646-6826. Yongsan - 2002 Ford F150 XLT Longbad Plick-up truck. 4X4, FX4 Officad package, Camper shell, Dark Blue Metalle, 374 miles, 5-4 liter V-8, Auto, Isoach 0 1 0 - 4 7 2 3 - 2 1 5 7, my69 superbee @hotmail.com yiger my beat

wiew my photos at http://com-m u n i t y . w e b s h o t s . com/album/266217145NHJEpQ Yongsan - 99" KIA, Carnival, 8 Passenger Van, 3.9 Liter Diesel Eng. 5 Speed, Cold AC. Asking \$4,500. Call 031-864-6320 Cell # 010-7213-4953

Autos for Sale 152

Courtney - 1988 Nissan Silvia S-13 5 Speed JCI good until March 2006, Runs great A/C needs work (compressor) \$800.00 Contact Byan at #22.#220 Sez-6ezo.

Courtney 1991 Toyota HiLux
Surf - Red, Power Everything,
4X4, Oversize Tires, Great
Truck, Need to get rid of the
payment Only \$3,450 owde
Small down payment and the
S300 a month. Call Daniel @
622-5e25 1 or email me at
cozartdi@3fssg

Courtney- 1992 Honda Accord Wagon, JCI due Mar 2006. Automatic AC.PL.PW.PS. Tinted Windows. New tires and battery. \$1500.00 obo. Call 965-2065 or 622-9366 Courtney - 1995 Nissan Silvia Clean in and out. New spring

and struts, brakes and tires. Cold A/C, CD player and CD changer \$1700 obo call ts22-bibbb
Courtney - 93 Blue Mitsubishl
RVR, Minivan style, Runs Great,
Extra COLD AC, New Pioneer
CD player and Speakers. JCI is
good through Mar 2006. Asking
\$250.00 OBD. Call 622-6876
or email eddlenme@oasis.mediatti.net for pictures Foster - 1991 Toyota Soarer, automatic, 2-door, forest green, rulin-turbo, after-market CDI/speakers, 17* aluminum al-loy rims, cold A/C, new battery, power locks and windows, UCI due Jun 06, \$3200. Email usarrook-cars@yahoo.com or call 645-905.

Call max wood on the control of the CIRCULATION OFFICES MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Autos for Sale 152

ED. very crean and dependable. Power window, power break, P/M, A/C cold, very good tires, clean interior, AM/FM Cassette, JCI 5/05, asking \$1200 OBO Call Brian & 634-4240/2329 or (CP):0907-587-5047.

Kadena - 1991 Toyota Town Ace 8-passenger van, excellent condition, runs very well, cold AC, CD player, surroot, JCI April 2005, \$1,100. (PCS'ing) call 633-8258 or email chadandann@yahoo.com

18.46.1.28 f S or e m all 18.45 c S of the Common of the C Kadena - 1991 Volks Wagon Golf GTI great condition, power window, power steering, actor matic, cold A/C, tinted windows, new brakes, 2 new tires. Great Deal. \$2000 UCI BII Oct 06. Call 632-3022(H) or 634-2505(W).

Call 633-5124. Kadena - 1992 Nissan Familia -4door, cold A/C, great condition! \$1500, JCI until Jan. 2007. Call 53 3 · 8 2 5 8 or e m a i I chadandann @yahoo.com

mel Petures cn.
Foster, Olinawa - GREAT COMDTION MUST SELL 1992
DOS - Barrier Sell 1993
DOS - Barrie Kadena + 1992 Toyota Aristo -S3500 OBO JCI until Jan. 2006 Automatic. Tan Interior, Pearl exterior, Navigation system, New tires and Rims. Very cold A'C. CD player, cassettels, AMFM radio. Runs Greatil For JICLUre om al Niya. WilghtGeorge Washena almil or call 6 3 2 - 0 0 2 1 /

Kadena - 1992 Toyota Hilux Surt: JCI until Feb 2007 Asking Kadena 1992 Toyota Land cruiser Prado 7 Passenger, Green over grey. 2.41 Turbo Dissel. Great shape. JC until Sep 2006 \$3000 and take vor \$237 monthly payments 5207 left or \$5000 all. Call 990-682-6746

Hansen-1996 Nissan Skyline Hansen-1996 Nissan Skyline Has GTS, Black Excellent con-cition with the hann con-cition of the con-power locks, power steer-ing and power brakes. Asking \$4500 OBO. Call James at 090-6896-880 Kadena - 1992 Toyota Marino -84,000 KM. JCI Feb 2006, CD 84,000 KM, JCI Feb 2006, CDP Player, and Great A/C. Excellent running car, never had a problem!!! \$3000 CBO I need to sell by Feb. 25 2005 due to PCS. Call: 09037902203 or Email: delena.prentiss@kadena. at.mil Hansen - 1996 Suzuki RM 125

Kadena - 1992 Toyota Sera runs great!!! Asking \$500.00 CD/cassette player, am/fin radio power windows must sel, PCS/ing very soon JCI due March 18, 2005. Contact Sera brooks bank at Kadena Airbase (H) 633-9702 (W) 634-1108. 623-6292.
Kadena - 1989 Toyota Town Ace (Van) \$500 No AC JCI May 05, mechanically reliable vehicle would be a waste to junk it. See \$33-1509 wookcowst Greats.me-diatt.net. Must sell NLT 3-15-05 Kadena - 1990 Toyota Suri. V5 Kadena - 1990 Toyota Suri. V6 Kadena 1993 Toyota Suri. V6 Kadena - 1993 Honda Clvic Ferio, working AC, AMFM cass, good condition. \$850 obo. Con-tact: retaw20@yahoo.com or call 633-6726

Autos for Sale

until Cct. 2006, 4 door sedan 2.0 VX A/C, Automatic trans widows, locks, AMFM Cass Digital display Brus Great Mus Sell \$2200.00 Call 633-400 or email whitetail1der@hotmail

com
Kadena - 1994 Honda Clvic, 4
door, dark blue, power windows,
looks, mirrors. Cold air condi-tioner, JCI Cet 2005, all new
tires. Upgrading to newer car,
need to sell, \$500 firm. Call
\$33-6037/08032202061.

633-6037/08032202051.

Kadena - 1994 Mitsubibin PVR, green wigray interior. Low miles very clean, and well maintained. Need to sell to get something bigger. \$1500 OBO call now \$33*9232

Kadena - 1994 Toyota Carina Ed, automatic, dark green, tinde windows, AC, CD player, \$2000 obo. Please call 633-6726 or 600-6864-68621 or e-mail

retlaw20@vahoo.com for info. Institution 20 years of the Control of the Control of C

ges, needs nothing, JCI good through Aril 2006. \$3000 PCSing in April-available 15 March 2005. (H)# 646-2114 (W)# 634-0165 or email ermetindo.serrano@kadena.af.mil oo.serrano@kadena.af.mil Kadena - 1995 Toyota Carina. Excellent Condition. Cold A/C, AM/FM Radio & Cassette Play-er. JCI until End of Jan 2007. Must Sell. \$2,500 OBO. Call Richard 634-1768(work) 958-4484 after 5 P.M.

\$55-498 anter b F.M.
Kadena - 1996 Nissan 180SX
for sale: Black top SR20 runs
great. In need of tender loving
care. Getting to small to carry
dive gear, must sell. 4000 or
best offer. 633-8470 (H) cell is
09058649078.
Kadena - 90 Toyota MR2 Turbo:
Beautiful factory indescent white brigancm@ Vincennes.navy.mil Kadona. 90 Toyola Supra TT, great condition inside and to win mainlained. Guit of back, exhaust, HKS Intake, boost and nirflatel gauges. JCI due April 2006. \$1900 GBO Call 633-0315 or em all terrasmak!91@earthlink.net Kadona. 91 PULSAR GTHR, stripped down Rally version.

632-3022 (H) 634-2505 (W). Kadena - Black 95 Skyline for sale \$3000 OBO. Please cal

\$2000

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\$4500 OBO. Call James 090-6866-8593 or 623-6064

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STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Autos for Sale - Okinawa

dena - 92 Honda Civic: Only 250 OBO. Green, 4-doors, in od condition, cold A/C, new of the sept 2005. I need a larger hicke. Must sell ASAP-my loss ur gain-call 632-3011 or email more pictures Diana.

Kadena - 92 Toyota Corolla: Gold, 4-door, automatic, power collable, JCI until Oct 2005. S2,800 OBO. Available end of March or sconer. Call 633-0413 or e - m a i i a t clel_663@yahoo.com

Kadena - 92 Toyota Trueno -Light blue, JCI until May 2005. C o I d A / C C a I I 0 9 0 - 19 49 - 6 0 4 7 (c e I I) 632-7419(work) or email smurfette_maria@yahoo.com

Kadena - 93 Toyota Mark II, blue. Very clean, runs great, cold AC, tinted windows, nice rims, 4-doors, automatic, power steering & windows, tape, CD& AMFM radio, JCI due Mar 2006 Asking \$3,000. OBO. Call #633-9282 or e-mail ashfeyjessica42@yahoo.com

Kadena - 94 Toyota Lucida Van - JCI good until Feb 2007. Silver with tan interior. Automatic, Dual AIC, AM/FM/CD Stereo, Sonar (a must for new drivers), 8 passengers. Very clean and Non-Smoker owned. \$4,000 obo. Call Don or Madeline at 633-6759 or 632-5449.

Kadena - Honda Acura Legend, fully loaded, black, good "JCI. CD, new tires, nice car, leaving soon, make an ofter, \$3200 - Okinawa 0 B 0 6 3 3 - 2 4 4 6 twistedspokel till yahoo.com

Kadena, Okinawa - 1994 Toyota Marino S1,700 OBO, Available Immediately RUNS GREAT! VERY RELIABLE, New Olitiborian filtoriunger/barinosy

olifilitoriair filter/injees/battery, A/C and heat work great! AM/FM Radio with CD player (W) 634-5475 (H) 633-1519 or e m a i I K a d e n a _ oeko@vahoo.com Kadena, Okinawa - FREE SURFIII 1992 Green Toyota SURFIII 1992 Green Toyota Surf wroof rack, bumper guard, & fog lights, bumper guard, great condition! Only needs new head gasket and JCI due in March. Call 633-6262 NOW!

Kadena - PCS'ingl 1992 Toyota Hilizx Surf - JCI 08/05, Auto, 4x4, AM/FM CD Stereo wlamp, A/C, power windows, power steering, sunnoof, dark red ext, excellent condition. \$3950 OBO 633-7268 or email

Misubishi Lancer 4 door, Grayi-green color, cold AIC, V-6 runs good, good fires, auto every-thing, AM/FM CD player, JCI due Feb 06, \$1100 OBO email: koreapaul@hotmail.com or call 623-4475. Lower mercen koreapaul@hotmail.com or call 633-4475. Leave message. Kirser - 1993 Honda Prelude, Silver, 72,000 miles, JCI due Dec. 2008, \$3,000 OBO. Call Elfred at 637-2396.

Dec. 2009, Sauto Con-Elfred at 637-2396.

Kinser 92 Toyota Corolla -White, 4doors, Cold A/C, CDipower windows and lock-Runs great, JCl good until Jun 06. Will be available 15 Mar 05. 8800obb. Call 637-4570 or email wenricksa@3tssg.usmc.

mil Finance - 94 Skyline GTS-T, Cruz this summer in eight Turbo timer, GTR ground effects, Bitz BO, stried, CD player, AC, Trice S500 GBO Comes with extra sbeering wheel, Tric, etc. call 637-4896 of comal good condition. Lesser 1991 Toyota Sufficiently, good condition summer care this has to go nowlf a stead at \$2-200 GBO. Call 646-6818 at \$2-200 GBO. Call 646-6818 Lester - 1993 Nissan Sylvia (240SX): Greenishteal exterior with 57K. Automatic. Excellent condition. AC; power windowl-lock; rear spoiler; CD player with AM/FM radio, JCI until Aug. 2006. 51,800 - firm. Available after March 7th, 2005. Day: 643-7276 evening 936-0935.

643-7276 eventing 936-9035.

Gkinnawa-1995 Mitsubish Deli-co, white, 4vd, new belts, new batteries, ice cold, freshly er-charged AIC, Ploneer CD play-er, seats 8, great for big families or visiting relatives, runs great visiting relatives, runs great JCI due in April. Call 646-4669hm. 634-1174wrk, 5894-1810gm.

Autos for Sale - Okinawa

152 Total - 1993 Honda-Acura Lo-pend 267 - 32 Liter V6 automatic, loaded! Who rold AC, SRS airbags, power seats, keyless entry, moornoof, new brake-sitives, JGI until 2007. This car is standed. Graphie black / gray interior. Asking: \$3700 DBO, but any reasonable ofter will be considered! Contact Jaime @ 644-8270 or email:

Autos Wanted

Kadena - Wanted to Buy, 95 or newer Surf or Prado. DIESEL 4-door. Need by April 30. 0 9 9 0 - 5 2 9 1 - 9 8 6 6 . morrissg 69 hornal.com Kinser, Okinawa - Wanted PLEASE PLEASE TEASE free car that runs good JCI through Aug 05. Our car just died and wall 807 30 ber 18 we PSC. Yongsan area - Looking for a used Toyota Pick up truck, 4-Runner. Call 031-864-6320 Cell # 010-7213-4953

Motorcyles - Japan 166

Sagamhara - 95 Honda Shad-ow: American classic edition, 1,100 cc. 6,700 original miles, full U.S. specifications, never been weeked and runs great, JCl for two years \$4,300 OBC. Call Josh at 267-6329 or 090-9688-3115. kadena - Great cart 1999 bias Toyota Corolla II. 2-door, auto-matic, cold A/C, and AMFM cassettle, runs great! PCSing April must sell. \$2500 OBO Call 533-0904.

170 - Okinawa TV
- Fepter - 2003 Honda (BBRR000
- Beautiful bile, nedblack in
- Beautiful bile, nedb

850.00 GBO call Chris at 823-820.00 GBO Call

Dit Bike: Excellent condition. Never raced. \$2,000.00 Call Jim 633-9190. Kadena, Okinawa - Chrome primary case for 94-up H-D Sportster. Still new in shrink-wrap. New price is over \$200, asking \$125. Call 632-3116 after 5 p m or e mail gmtwizard@runbox.com gministrand@runbox.com
Okinawa 2003 Honda
CBRR600 Redblack beautiful
bike, löts of extras "stemmarket
underseat thanum exhaust, also
have brand new orig, exhaust, all digital speedometer, will
sickulde HJC helmet, cover, crange vest. Asking \$7500000.
GS4-1174wrk. 6-46-4600hm,

Auto Parts

Foster - Bischronics Incredible speaker system! (Righch 1883). And the speaker system! (Righch 1883) and the speaker system! (Righch 1884) and the speaker stands, man declared abmount on Front speaker stands, man declared stands, man declared stands, man declared stands, man declared stands. These stands are stands and the speaker speaker stands and the speaker stands and the speaker stands and the speaker stands and the speaker speaker stands and the speaker speaker

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546-4483.
Kadena, Okinawa - Car Stereo:
Kenwood KRC-988 Cassette
receiver, black, 45w x4, removable Faceplate, Dolby BC, direct
program search, front/rear proout RCA jacks, for adding amp
\$35 call 633-4034 or
turbin s@hotmail.com

Auto Parts 180

self-stocking, Clarena, 1500 of the Control Sealer of the Control

Selection of the property of t

Bicycles Kadena, Okinawa - Power Wheels Jeep Wrangler - Used brigger, for the suppension, nor 56 times only, in goal conditions of the suppension of the saking \$100 OBD. Call Beind as (33-682") or email me, opentiekses(2001 Byaho

220 Clothing 320 Kadena, Okinawa - Power Rangers jacket. Brand new, still in original shipping package. Size XXS (2-3 yrs) \$25 Email meisjewels@yahoo.com or call 632-3320.

motispeeds 6 yabon or a crisial coloration of crisial coloration or crisial cr

Computers



Furniture 510

Assigi, Japan - Sofia and Coffee Table - seven-foot sofa with blue denim sile; ower, 2850 OBO, natural wood coffee table with center drawer and three glasses inlays, 550 OBO Both of 5250. Call Noti or Centes at 288-7117. Courtney, Okinawa - A nice Spices black with leather sides of the company of the control of the second must in great conditions with properties of the control of the second of the control of the control of the second of the control of the control of the second of the control of the control of the second of the control of the control of the second of the control of the control of the second of the control of the contro

360 Furniture

Kadena, Okinawa - German corner dinette set for sale. The set includes a table with pull or leaves, 3 chairs and a corner bench that will sit 3. It also comes with a large china cabinet. We paid over \$1000 but must let it go for \$600. Call 633-1513 if interested. USION COMPUTES

STORY COMPUTES

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510

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sullyger tures. tures.
Foster, Okinawa - Brand new
big, brown Louis Vuitton "look
alike" purse & koy wallet for
salel The purse is \$60, & wallet
for \$20. Call #54-64374 or
e-mail sullygem@yahoo.com

STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Kadena, Okinawa - White tod dier bed with mattress. New \$75 Call 090-6857-8482 adena - Solid Oak Entertair nent Center \$280, all in grea Kinser - FOR SALE Futon Bunk Bed comes with the Futon Pad and Twin Mattress. Paid over \$300 at Foster Furniture Store this summer for the eritie set. Excellent condition Call 637-2537 ask for Danny or Shelley or email at weightdp'et casts mediatis.net to or 090-6866-1174.

Shelley or email at complete the convergence of the kinser, Okinawa - For sale Ashley bedroom set less than 4months old in excellent condi-tion paid 4650.00 selling for 2800.00 comes with king bed, armoire, chest of drawers, night stand call 637-5181. andrews eroass, mediam, het Foster, Okinawa - Play Station, in great condition with 2 memory cards and 3 controllers, all connecting cords and extension cord for controllers. \$75.00 Call 646-8535.

months old in excellent condition paid 165.00 asking 90.00 call 537-5181 ill interested. Kinser, Okinawa - Twin over Twin solid pine bunk beds for sale just bought for \$469.00 in states, takes up too much room in children's room. Will sell for \$300.00 ob 637-2333 leave message if we are not home thank ure.

signout obtained in the same and s geko@yahoo.com Okinawa - 4-piece sectional Lazy Boy dark green sofa, full size bed + reciliner (paid \$5,000) sell \$2,500.00, king size bed from Furniture \$350.00. 935-5043 - DRESSER with mir Okinawa - DRESSER with mir-ors &sk drawers - Cherry Wood Color. Only one year old. Bought for over \$300. Will sell for \$150. Great for a spare bedroom. Call Stella & 926-2018 or em all annunziatosm@oki10.med.na-w mil works anywhere in Call 633-6733 for pri

633-2181.
Kadena, Okinawa PS2, 2
Remotes, 23 PS2 Games, 4
Memory cards, 1Mutti-Tap, Ail
6 SS00 OO DB. Piesse call
6 No. 1 No. annunziatosm @oki10.med.na-y.mil Okinawa - Very nice bamboo bar with 5 oak stotle. Had custom made and shipped from Ball, Indonesia. Mostly sigh colored bamboo (with natural dark bamboo (with natural dark bamboo (min, comer bar. Comer bar.)

Interested 5 of act of the control o

227-4600.

Yokota, Japan - Living Room set - Couch and Loveseat, burgundy with blue, cream and green stripes, Lazy Boy recliner, solid burgundy, arms open for storage with lowhigh speed massage control and cup holder, S600 OBO. Call 227-4600.

Yokota - LINING POOM SET. marquise 0.5-carat diamond, E color SI (1) clarity, in white gold band. Retail \$2500, selling for \$1000 obo. For information

Recliner/Rocker-solid burgundy Arm opens up for storage, with low/high speed massage con trols, and cup holder. \$500 OR... MAKE AN OFFER. 227-4600.

net for picture.

Yokota - ENTAINMENT CEN-TER black, holds up to 32in TV, glass doors on the sides, and lots of storage space. \$50.

622-5133.

Foster, Okinawa - Clock Antique Japanese wall clock made by Sato. Light and dark wood, strikes on the hour and half-hour. \$100.00 firm. Call hour. \$100.00 nm. 645-4277, or e-mai meyers@oasis.mediatti.net fo @646-3877 or e-mail jenn05@oasis.mediatti.net Foster, Okinawa - Surfeit slip-cover for couch tan in color almost brand new, bought at BX and decided to make my own the next day asking \$40 call 646-6215 losus a meserge.

Household Items

Home Electronics 570

Foster, Okinawa - 61' PIP Sony TV: Paid \$1,999 asking \$1,000. Excellent condition. For more information call Lee at 646-3532

cora tor confroilers. \$75.00 Call 646-6353. Kadena, Okinawa - 13' color TV w0VDV player. Includes box, manual, and remote. \$175.000. Radena, Okinawa - 19' inch Abawoo TV for sale, perfect for video games or kids room. Selts for 100.00 at the box, will self for 60.00 or best offer. Call Scott 830-0809.

803-0863.

Kadena, Okinawa - Bose Life style 35 Home Entertainment System. Digital AM/FM Radio Luner, 5 Speaker System DVD-video, CD, CD-R/RW and MP3, wth 5 Tiny Jewel Cube speakers Black finish. \$2.200/0B0. Kadena, Okinawa - Bose Life-style 35 Surround Sound Stereo System - Only 1 year old. Must sell NOW, due to upgraded system. Bose Module, with 5 double cube speakers, and radio frequency remote that works anywhere in your home! Call 633-6733 for price! Kadena, Okinawa - Must Sell. New Bose Center Speaker still in box for \$130 (BX \$189). Call 633-2181.

Jewelry 610

670

mantha or Jim 633-2789

Merchandising

Kinser, Okinawa - VHS movies Over 150 to choose fron Children's workout scary, dra ma, action, etc. call 637-4386 o jenn8164@yahoo.com for lis and prices Musical Instruments 740

Jobs Offered

OWN your FUTURE

SAIC is the largest employee-owned research and engineering company in the United States, providing information technology, systems integration and eSolutions to commercial and government customers. S&V engineers and scientists work to solve complex technical problems in national and homeland security, energy, the environment, space, telecommunications, health care and logistics. With annual revenues of nearly \$7 billion, SAIC and its subsidiaries, including Telcordia Technologies, have more than 45,000 employees at offices in more than 150 cities

We are looking for talented people interested in working in the Pacific in support of PACAF in the following roles:

- TBMCS Systems Engineers
- Systems Administrators and Trainers
- · GCCS Systems Administrators/
- **Database Administrators** · Field Serice Engineers and Technicians
- Trainers
- Exercise Planners
- Scenario Modelers

Locations are Hawaii, Janan, South Korea, Guam and Alaska. To qualify you must have either an active Secret or Top Secret security clearance.

As an industry leader, we offer you a complete compensation package, including competitive salaries, and a full range of benefits. To apply for these posit go to:www.saic.com, click on "Job Opportunities" then click "Find Your Job" Please type in the reference number CEG110868 and submit your resume. SAK is native Action Employer who values cultural diversity in the workplace. EOE, M/F/D/V.



630

Assistant Director for USAF Programs, Logistics and Training Seeking a self starter with 10 years of greater USAF rotary wing experience in ILS and training to lead companies logistics and training program for a major USAF procurement. Position located in Northern Virginia area.

Send or fax resume, salary requirements, and availability to:

M Malone 2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 1114 Arlington, VA 22202 Fax number: 703-243-0885

Jobs Offered

SQL Senior Engineer

ACS, a government contractor, is seeking a Senior SQL developer at Torii Station, Okinawa, Full-time SOFA position for a 5 year contract. Benefits include Health Insurance, Tuition

Assistance, 401K. Please email HR@acs-global.net

for details.

Musical Instruments 740 Outdoor Living

Kadena, Okinawa - CHAIN LINK FENCE 300+ feet - All poles come with cement, all ready pulled, comes with two gates. It has rusted! \$200.00, and I will help you haul it out. All parts are there. Call Jackie @ 633-2504 o r e m a i I lackiekeeter@yahoo.com Lester - Lawnmower in good working condition for \$50 and electric edger for \$30. Take both for \$75. Call 646-5117.

Outdoor Living Kadena, Okinawa - Set of white plastic convert-a-benches for sale. Can be used alone as outdoor benches or combined as a plonic table. They were \$70 near asking \$50 each OBO. Call 633-1513 if

interested.

Kadena, Okinawa - Set of white plastic convert-a-benches for sale. Can be used alone as outdoor benches or combined as a picnic table. They were \$70 new and we are asking \$50 each OBO. Call 633-1513 if

775

Memory Card \$15, PS2 control ler \$15, Pentium-233 Computer \$100, 17" monitor \$80, DVD-ROM \$50, junior golf set \$30, 10x12 dark blue carpet \$30 and 12X15 dark green carpet \$40, 12X15 dark green caspet \$40, dark green recliner in decent shape \$40. Call 633-210. Kadena - PCS SALE everything must got!! Desks, tuton, enter lainment center, and more. Priced for quick sale. Call for prices and descriptions, Gwen 633-0859 or e-mail resetted 90 00 % vahou.com

Sporting Goods

780

balls with all shots. Please can be seen and for pictures locedulate Phormal State Foster - English Bull Dog for sale - \$1550. One and haf year old Female, white with brindle patches. Healthy and loveable kids. Not yet spayed, and has JKC papers. Please call 645-6797. Or e-mail salkfitz@oasis.mediatti.com for photo's.

and fluffy tail. Calm nality, great w/ kids. Neu-micro chipped, and up to

- Free lovable rabbit with complete accesso-

okota - AQUARIUM- For rep-les, comes with cave, heat amp, heating pad, and cage over lid. \$20.00, 227-4600.

Photography

Homes/Condos - US 868 Lejeune/Jacksonville home for sale: 4-5 large bedrooms, carpet & ceramic tife, fire place, lots of storage, 2-car garage, on 2.17 acres in new subdivision. e-mail: diabetocaremanagment@yahoo.

House Unfurnished 878 Ninawa - American style house

Okinawa - American style house and land for sale by owner. 3 story, 3 bedroom, 3 bath. 2400 sq ft. 68 Tsubo. Quiet neighbor-hood neighbor hood adjacent to San-A Main City in Gushikawa. \$380,000.00. Call Chris Dibbell

Courtney, Okinawa - Solid wood rides on fire truck from lakeshor-elearning.com \$20 email trishatt@oasis.mediatti.net or call 622-6424

call 622-6424

rosettie99 O08hyahoc.com
Kadena, Okinawa - Power
Wheels Barbie Take Along
Tunes Jeep for sale. We paid
S250 for it but need to let it go
due to PCS. It is very clean and
in great shape. It was stored
inside so weather has not
damaged it. Asking \$150, call
633-1513 if interested.

Foster, Okinawa - FISHING POLE FOR SALE: 7ft. Ugly Stick Tiger (20-50bs). It comes with a Tidewater real (20b/330yds). Never used and in very nond condition.

Sporting Goods

cas 645-4277.
Foster, Okinawa - New Balance - Woman's running sneaker, only wore once, bought new at PX \$80 will sell for \$45. Call Healther at 646-8807.

navyZone2@hotmal.com Foster - Garmin GPS 76s. Model includes Electronic Com-pase, Barometer, Charf Pioting and 24mb memory. Waterproot, comes with 12v power cable and PC transfer cable plus a neoprene holder. Comes with original box and all manuals etc. \$250 obo. Call 646-4369 or 1906.6981.17322 PX 500 will set for \$64. Cat Heather of 646. C

etč. \$250 obo. Call 646-4369 or 990-6861-7332.

Foster - Naušlius Aerobic cycle AR500 \$150.00, GR-DVL916 digital video camera (JVC) \$125, formal dresses size small, 8-10. Two piece Former John wetsulf (3mm) small \$75.00. 990-6856-7870. Foster, Okinawa - Asian boy 8 girl Cherish Teddies figurines foo sale! \$5.00 each or 2 for \$8. Cal #646-4374 or e-mail sulfygem@yahoo.com for pic-hurse

Kadena, Okinawa - Halcyon Doubles System with 10 dives. Tanks are filled with NTROX. I don't have time to dive anymore since I work as a maintainer for the 44th. System cost new was about \$1800 No reasonable ofter refused. Call 633-1356 for ofter refused. Call 633-1356 for

about \$1800 No reasonable commission and editable. So commission and editable. So commission and editable for the country of t email meyers@casis. net for more information. Foster, Okinawa - Pr sale! Big black leathe sells for \$15.00 & "Sleeping Beauty" pi Kadena - 100 VHS tapes mixed, some old Westerns \$100. Two Chafing stainless dishes keep

food warm for parties \$25.00 each. Call Dennis 090-8839-9617 Kadena, Okinawa - I have 2 very large outdoor plants for sale. They are both in pots. They have weathered many of Okinawa's best storms and are no worse for it. We are asking \$20 for each. Call 633-1513 if interested. home.

Kadena, Okinawa - Schwinn
Airdyne exercise bike
(htpulwww.schwinfess.com)products
function-edetalisid-5 in great
condition. MSRP is \$649, purchased at BX for \$500, will sell
for \$300. Must sell to make
room for baby. Call Rob &
633-7735 or email

Foster, Okinawa - Kenwood 400 disc DVD/CD changer, Progressive scan, computer, interface for titles, remote and manuals. \$250.00. Call 645-4277, or email meyers@oasis.mediattl

no worse oor in. we are search to worse oor in. The control of the 1531-7735 or em all midanser@yehoo.com
midanser@yehoo.com
kadena, Okiansea - Sherwood
Outback BC, Sherwood Regulator with Second Stage and
Compass, Includes Wetsuits,
flashlight, dive knile, hood, and
much more; way too many
obtacle of the company
to the comp secondary condition. Task every 1900, 200.

Contract Condition C

Yokota, Japan - Girl's 16-inch bike with training wheels, \$10; various luggage, \$5 to \$20; 12k cordless drill, \$20; solid wood end table, \$10; two wooder folding chairs, \$25. Cal 227-9469. but will sell for \$100. Please call Tom or Liz at 633-0012 or email tifdb@oasis.mediatti.net Kadena, Okinawa - Total Fit-ness Package Heavy Duty Pro-Form GP5 Treadmill with Incline

December 200 State Paul Work From 200 State Paul Work From 200 State Paul From 200 Sta Yokota, Japan - Wireless PS2 controller pair, \$60; computer with 2.4 GHZ/DVD/CDRW burner, \$500; 20-inch Panasonic TV, \$50; cordless drill. \$25; Surland with 2.4 GHZ/DVD/CDRW burn-er, \$500; 20-inch Panasonic TV, \$50; cordless drill, \$25; 5-pieco table set, \$40; 3 VTECH 2.4 GHZ cordless phones, \$130; Kerrwood CD changer, \$90. Cal 227-2425.

bs3-0123.

Okinawa - I have 2 surfboards for sale. Ripcurl, 72°, great condition, will include leash, asking \$4000bo. Nectar 65 blue and white design, excellent condition, will include leash and cover. Asking \$400bb. Both are in great shape, and a great deal! Call Kirk 646-4969hm, 534-1174wit.

Kadena, Okinawa SURFEBOARDII Used but in awesome shape. Made in Okinawa, selling for \$250. Very cheap compared to off-base shops. If you would like to take a look at it call Joe at 100-6856-9712 or leave a message at 632-3105.



SATURDAY EVENING / MARCH 5 2005

• SPORTS MOVIEC

					⊓ 5, ∠ ∪∪						MO\	ILO	 SPORTS
	J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	Headline News	•ESPNews	According to Jim "The Baby" Jim's sister is pregnant. (CC)	Half & Half Mona must fire her friend Adam. (CC)	Wife Swap "Paiss/E Swap)" An environm swaps lives with a le dad. (CC)	nentalist father	Law & Order "The B Fontana and Green prison gang membe	probe the death of a	Headline News	Saturday Night Liv	e (CC)	'
7	AFN-ATL		Switched! "Missy and Ryan" (CC)	Radio Free Roscoe (Part 3 of 3)	American Adven- turer	Access Hollywood	I (CC)	•WWE Raw		According to Jim "The Baby" (CC)	Half & Half (CC)	Wife Swap "Paiss/E Swap)" (CC)	Davis (Husband
8	NEWS	Hardball With Chris	Matthews	The O'Reilly Facto		Dateline NBC (CC)		CNN Saturday Mor	ning (CC)	Economy Watch C economy; indicators	urrent state of the	CNN Saturday Morning (CC)	Open House (CC)
9	SPORTS	•(4:00) Sports		ļ.	 SportsCenter 			To Be Announced		coordiny, indicators	, 110110.	SportsCenter	
10	SPEC	What Not to Wear	Marie*	The Bachelorette (CC)	Tru Calling "Drop D enters a beauty pag	lead Gorgeous" Tru jeant. (CC)	Strong Medicine "F beats" Lu tries to fin match for a baby wi	d a bone marrow	Friends Rachel tries to thaw Joey's big chill.	Seinfeld The marathon-running housequest. (CC)	The Real World (CC)	Punk'd
		Fairly Oddparents (5:00) *** "Gatta			00) Tyra Banks, Linds nes" (2000, Action) E		* * "Cats & Dogs"	(2001, Comedy) Jef		American Idol (CC)	American Idol (CC * * "North Shore"	
14	AFN-MOV TMC	(:15) * * * "Sex, Li	es, and Videotape"	(1989, Drama) Jame ngs a couple's sexual	s Spader, Andie	* * "The Big Empt	ty" (2003, Comedy) . I Cort. A struggling a	Ion Favreau, Joey	L 450	20000 0 1 0	na) Jason Schwartzm goes on a three-day :		*** "Taxi Dri- ver" (1976) Robert De Niro.
24	PBS	Nova Efforts to pres of Independence an (CC) (DVS)	erve the Declaration d the Constitution.	Antiques Roadsho perfume bottles; Co stamped brass belt	nfederate States	Briars in the Cotto of Koinonia Farm (n Patch: The Story	Slavery and the Ma Freedom' As the na sue. (CC)		eeds of Destruction:	The Challenge of	Austin City Limits ald/Joss Stone" Jos	"Michael McDon-
25	SHOW	(:15) * * "Dangero Courtney B. Vance. I (CC)	A teacher works won	rama) Michelle Pfeiffe ders on a class of ec	ducational misfits. 'R'	Gerard Butler, Ciara Pandora's box. 'PG-	in Hinds. Premiere. T 13' (CC)	he globe-trofter battle	es a scientist for	Tyron Leitso, Clint H an island. 'R' (CC)	Dead" (2003, Horror) loward. Young people	Jonathan Cherry, battle zombies on	** "Fled" (1996) Laurence Fish- burne. 'R' (CC)
27	A&E	The Big House "Mo Montana State Prisc		City Confidential T Martha Moxley in G (CC)	he 1975 murder of reenwich, Conn.	the Desert' Politicia: Johnny Volpato. (CC	()	cliff leads police to u murders. (CC)		MI-5 "Outsiders" Co suspects. (N) (CC)	mputer-hackers are		t's killing spree. (CC)
28	DISC	To Be Announced		Storm Warning!		Anatomy of Disast		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Junkyard Wars (CC	
29	TFC	Na Ba?	(:45) Magandang G		Star Dance		(:45) Kontrobersya		News	Wowowee		(:15) Entertainmen	
30	CNN-I	Lou Dobbs Tonight		People in the News Prime Time Special		CNN Presents "Har Antarctica" Life at th	rsh Continent: Life in ie South Pole.	CNN Saturday Mor	ning		House Call With Dr. Sanjay Gupta	CNN Saturday Morning (CC)	Open House (CC)
31	GOLF	•European PGA G	olf Dubai Desert Cla		From Dubai, United A	rab Emirates. (Live)				Golf Channel Academy	Golf Central	 European PGA G Classic Third Rou 	ınd.
32	TLC	Trading Spaces "Je Avenue"	rsey City: Webster	Town Haul "The Fir the lounge in the fire	ehouse" Updating ehouse. (N)	Moving Up A coupl renovates their drea	e expecting twins im house.	Trading Spaces "Je Avenue"	rsey City: Webster	Town Haul 'The Fir the lounge in the fir		What Not to Wear berly is transformed	"Kimberly H." Kim- I. (CC)
34	TOON		He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	Toon-O-Scope	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends	To Be Announced			Evil Con Carne	What's New Scoo- by-Doo?	
35	ANPL	Amazing Animal Vi Cutest Animals" Mio hang-gliding dog. (C	e inhabit a winery; C)	NASCAR: Animal (The Planet's Funni Ribbon Awards" Bes mance. (CC)	st musical perfor-	Amazing Animal Vi Cutest Animals" Mic hang-gliding dog. (C	e inhabit a winery; C)	NASCAR: Animal (King of the Jungle the pride widens.	
36	сом	(5:00) **s "Bever! (1987, Comedy) Ed: Cox, Judge Reinhold	i.	Chris Rock: Bring performs a stand-up	routine. (CC)	(CC)	Chappelle's Show Jamie Foxx. (CC)	Def. (CC)	Snoop Dogg; Big Boi. (CC)	other black comics	ment Presents" (20) perform in concert. (C	(C)	
40	NGC-A	The Dolphin Conne ing spinner dolphin	culture and behavior.	Toyota World of Wildlife "Kings & Queens"	Insects From Hell Armored beetles and bugs.	Hornets: A Sting in		Be the Creature 'B and personal with a	brown bear.	Venom extraction.	Wildlife Diary	Built for the Kill "G cheetahs stalk gaze ards try to ambush	elles; stealthy leop- prey.
42	SPIKE	Travolta, Karen Lynn	day Night Fever" (1 Gorney. Premiere. (CC)	MXC	WWE Velocity (N)		World's Wildest Po		Hey! Spring of Trivia (N)	Blind Date (CC)	World's Most Ama	
43	FOX	Donna and Eric get SAT scores.	That '70s Show Gang converges on cabin. (CC)	The Simpsons Homer pirates ca- ble television.	Seinfeld Jerry's cleaning man may be a thief. (CC)	a robbery/homicide scene to the courtro	om. (N)	Fights Back A body room in Las Vegas.	is found in a hotel (N) (CC)	News	Fox Rox	Mad TV Susan Sara	
44	BET		Access Granted Marques Houston.	Club Comic View		homage to the black	artbeats" (1991, Cor singing groups of the	e 1960s.			Access Granted "Usher"	Maad Sports NB/	
46	COUNT	Witness' Rabbinical student slain.	I, Detective "Cus- tomer Service"	Cops Raid on a suspected drug house. (CC)	Cops A drug sup- plier is arrested. (CC)	Forensic Files "Scout's Honor" In- sect evidence.	Forensic Files Garbage bag leads to a killer.	sion"	Psychic Detec- tives	Dominick Dunne: I Justice 'Death of a	Beauty King"	Hollywood Heat	Hollywood Justice Child "divorces" parents.
48	STR-WLD	Roswell (CC)		Dark Angel (CC)	011 1 015	TNA Wrestling		rifying attacks on bo mals in the water.		Hunter (CC)	Cops (CC)	The Kumars at No. 42	cious Me (CC)
50	LIFE	* * "Blood on Her Casnoff. A femme fa (5:00) "School of Li	tale persuades her li	na) Susan Lucci, Joh over to kill her husba	in O'Hurley, Philip nd. (CC)	Strong Medicine "F woman has a rare fo (CC) America's Funni-	oreign Bodies' A orm of lung disease.	* * "Sex, Love and Annabeth Gish. A po America's Funni-	Lies" (2004, Come redatory lawyer sets	dy-Drama) Scott Col off a sexual chain re-	nen, John Stamos, action. (CC)	Paid Program	Paid Program
51	ABCFAM	Paymer. Premiere. A counterpart compete	teacher and his for an award.	Anyway? "Sound Effects." (CC)	Anyway? "Ques- tions." (CC)	est Home Videos Pattycake cat.	est Home Videos Santa tribute. (CC)	est Home Videos Sports shorts.	est Home Videos Babies. (CC)			Goldin Sports	
53	HIST	and symbolic stature fect target for terroris	of New York's World sts. (CC)		s made them a per-	The War Against al		Days That Shook to		and symbolic statur fect target for terrori		Trade Center tower	s made them a per-
57	STR-MV	ian home for exotic i	Africa.		onkeys" (1995, Scier prisoner is sent back	ice Fiction) Bruce Wi in time to avert a dea		girl and a creature t	rophecy" (2003, Far ard Harris, Anjelica H ry to save a huge tre	в.	tersen, Karen Sillas, coastal community i		creature plunges a
58	ADV 1	(5:30) Bhutan Kayaking 1	Into the Unknown	Next Wave Protect- ing an island jungle home.			Game for It	Bhutan Kayaking 1		Into the Unknown	Adventure Challe		Poles Apart
59	MTV		The Osbournes	The Osbournes	The Osbournes		The Real World Willie firts with an- other guy. (CC)		Wanna Come In?	My Super Sweet 16	My Super Sweet 16	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica
60	NICK	Nicktoons TV	Nicktoons TV	Nicktoons TV	Nicktoons TV	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide (N)	Drake & Josh Drake becomes jealous. (CC)	All That Nick Can- non; Britney Spears. (CC)	The Amanda Show Costumatic 5000. (CC)	Full House Stephanie gets new glasses. (CC)	Full House Michelle wins a pet goldfish. (CC)	The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Hugh Hefner stars. (CC)	The Cosby Show Clair's plans don't excite Rudy. (CC)

JAPAN TV

1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan: Bunra-ku (3)

2:00 J1 League Soccer: Urawa Reds vs. Kashima Antlers (6) 3:30 Japan Pro Ball: Exhibition Game
- Yomiuri Giants vs. Softbank
Hawks (4)

3:50 J1 League Soccer: Yokohama F. Marinos vs. Jubilo Iwata (1) 4:00 Special Olympics 2005 in Naga-no (3)

4:00 Daikin Orchid Ladies' Golf: 3rd Round (6) 5:00 Ultimate Fighting Special (6)

Evening 7:00 News (1) 9:00 U.S. Movie (1996): The Rock (2:34)(8)

12:45 E.R. VIII (1) 2:20 Japan Pro Boxing (4) 2:25 FI Grand Prix: 1st Round, Austra-lian GP Preliminary (8) 3:20 U.S. Movie (1991): The Indian Runner (1:40)(12) 3:55 Pro Wrestling: WWE-X Special (8)

JAPAN TV-BS7

Morning 6:10 World News 7:10 World News 8:10 World News Hour 9:10 World News Hour 10:10 World Reports (r)

11:10 J1 League Soccer: Season Opening Preview Afternoon 12:10 CNN News

1:10 BS Documentary: Tracking Co-lumbian Drug Syndicate

lumbian Drug Syndicate
2:10 History of FIFA (1)
2:30 History of FIFA (2)
3:00 Soccer J1 League: Gamba Osaka
vs. Omiya Ardija
5:10 2005 World Alpine Skiling Championships Highlights

pionships Highlights Evening 6:10 X-Games 2004 7:00 Soccer J1 League: F.C.Tokyo vs. Albirex Nilgata 9:10 Soccer J1 League Results

12:10 CNN News 12:10 CNN News 12:20 Football Mundial 1:10 NBA: Cleveland Cavaliers vs. Philadelphia 76ers 3:10 What's On Asia 3:35 World Amazing Sports

4:10 What's On Japan 5:10 X-Games 2004 5:40 Football Mundial

JAPAN TV-BS11

7:00 NHK News 1:10 U.S. Movie (1997): Affliction (1:55)

wowow

Morning 6:00 U.S. Movie (1974): The Front Page (1:57) 8:00 TV Series: Oakson's Creek 9:00 TV Series: OSI: Orime Scene In-vestigation - Milami 2 11:30 U.S. Movie (1998): The Aveng-ers (1:32)

1:10 U.S. Movie (2003): S.W.A.T. (2:00)

3:20 U.S. Movie (2002): Divine Se-crets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood (2:00)

Evening 8:00 Hungarian-Canadian-British Movie (2002): Max (1:50) 10:00 British Movie (2002): 28 Days Later... (1:57) 12:00 TV Series: Friends the Final

12:30 TV Series: Sex and the City #90 2:55 U.S. Movie (2003): Dracula II: As-cension (1:30) 5:55 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola

MTV

6:00 Wake Up! 8:00 Classic 90's 9:00 Japan Chart Top 30

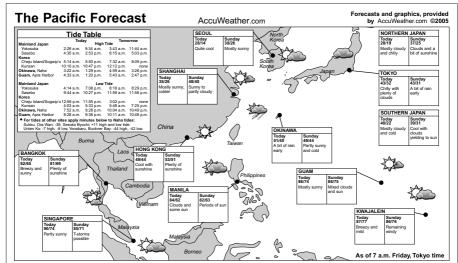
Afternoon
12:90 Music Download Chart Top 10
100 World Chart Express Supported
by Honda
3:00 Pimp My Ride
3:30 Faking the Video: Michelle
Branch
4:00 On-Air Chart Top 30

7:30 Screen 8:00 Asia Awards 2004: BoA

8:00 ASIA AWARDS 2004: BOA 9:30 Diary: BoA at MAA 2004 10:00 Now and Then: Miki Nakajima 11:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super DRY 1:00 Pimp My Ride

1:30 Check the Rhyme 2:00 Faking the Video: Michelle Brunch Brunch 2:30 Rock On

3:00 Headbangers Ball 3:30 After Hours



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Monday: Mostly sunny, high 46, low 41. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high 53, low 42.

KADENA

Monday: Partly sunny, high 59, low 52. Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 63, low 56.

SEOUL

Monday: Mostly sunny, high 47, low 28. Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high 47, low 34.

MANILA

Monday: Mostly cloudy, high 83, low 63. Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, high 86, low 67.

HAGATNA

Monday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 75. Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 87, low 74.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/I OW	CITY	IIGH/I OW
Albuquerque	60/33	Los Angeles	65/52
Amarillo	67/35	Little Rock	59/43
Anchorage	34/24	Louisville	43/36
Asheville	49/24	Miami	69/61
Baltimore	36/20	Milwaukee	31/20
Birmingham	56/35	Nashville	54/37
Bismarck	51/25	New York	34/23
Boise	54/34	Omaha	52/32
Boston	31/19	Orlando	57/48
Brownsville	78/58	Philadelphia	36/20
Buffalo	24/18	Phoenix	72/52
Burlington	21/12	Pittsburgh	27/18
Charleston, St	C 55/31	Portland, OR	60/42
Charlotte	53/26	Portland, ME	28/11
Cleveland	26/20	Salt Lake City	51/32
Columbus, OF	30/22	St. Louis	49/39
Duluth	30/18	San Antonio	68/48
El Paso	72/43	San Diego	65/56
Hartford	29/15	San Juan	85/74
Helena	53/24	Tampa	57/48
Indianapolis	36/27	Tulsa	62/46
Jacksonville	54/38	Washington, D	C 39/24
Kansas City	58/41	Wichita	69/41



U.S. Extended Forecast

A storm system will slide from Ohio to eastern Virginia on Saturday, bringing a bit of snow across the mid-Atlantic region. Rain will mix with the snow across New Jersey and Maryland; all rain will impact Virginia. A few showers will develop along the associated cold front as the front moves into the Carolinas in the afternoon and drapes back into central Texas. Meanwhile, an upper-level storm system will move over Arizona and meander there into early next week. Thunderstorms will develop in spots from Southern California to western New Mexico on Sunday as well. Some rain will spread into eastern New Mexico and West Texas. The dry northwestern half of the nation will again experience sunshine.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

Saturday's World Temperatures

crry Bangkok Beijing Camp Casey Christchurch Diego Garcia Hagatha Hanoi Hong Kong	82/65 40/35 30/16 73/57 88/78 86/74 57/50 49/44 80/65	city Iwakuni Kadena AB Kunsan AB Kwajalein Manila Misawa AB Osan Perth Pusan	HIGH/LOW 43/30 51/40 28/16 87/77 84/62 30/17 29/15 78/54 34/18	CITY Sasebo NB Sapporo Seoul Shanghai Singapore Sydney Taegu Taipei Tokyo	HIGHILOW 41/24 28/19 28/14 35/26 90/74 83/55 32/15 51/37 43/32	Acapulco Athens Auckland Baghdad Barbados Barcelona Berlin Bermuda Brussels	88/72 64/55 74/61 69/45 90/72 57/34 27/13 61/52 35/19	Budapest Buenos Aires Cairo Cancun Cape Town Geneva Istanbul Jerusalem Johannesbur	81/60 81/65 93/67 31/29 56/44 63/48	Kabul Kiev Kuwait London Madrid Mexico City Montreal Mogadishu Moscow	52/31 34/33 80/53 41/28 50/29 75/52 25/11 93/76 22/16	Nairobi New Delhi Oslo Paris Rio de Janein Rome St. Petersburg Stockholm Warsaw	50/37
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SCOREBOARD

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Saturday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.-College basketball: Miami, Fia. at Duke (did). AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.-Golf: PGA Doral Champi-onship, second round. AFN-Atlantic, 9 a.m.-NBA: Cleveland at Phildelphia. AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.-NBA: KIA NBA

hoot-around. AFN-Sports, 10 a.m.-NBA: Sacramento at AFN-Pacific/Korea, 11 a.m.-Boxing: Rocky uarez vs. Juan Carlos Ramirez, feathervelghts. AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.-NBA: Dallas at L.A.

AFN radio Okinawa, 12:30 p.m.-NBA: De AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.-Tennis-Davis Cup: Fi ound, Croatia vs. Team USA at Cars Calif., singles (dld).

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.-Preseason baseball:
Los Angeles vs. Atlanta (dld).

Sunday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.-College basketball: ESPN College GameDay, AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.-College basketball: Lou-isville af DePaul. AFN-Pacific/Korea, 2 a.m.-College basket-ball: Big South Conference Tournament champlonship, teams to be determined.

mm-racumc/korea, 2 am. College basketall: Bilg South Conference Tournament championship, teams to be determined.
AFM-Atlantic, 6 am. College basketball: Albama at Massissippi Data (September 1) and the state of th

natia themphis.

ARN-Sports, 8 a.m.-College basketball: Cincinnati at Memphis.

ARN-Sports, 10 a.m.-College basketball: Cklahoma at Texas Tech.

ARN-Sports, 10 a.m.-College basketball: ESPN College GameDay scoreboard.

ARN-Pacific/Korea, 11 a.m.-NBA: Portland at Phoenix. c. orts, AFN radio Okinawa, Korea, 11 ge basketball: Texas at Oklahoma

a.m.-College basketball:
ARN-Sports, 2 p.m.-College basketball:
ESPN College GameDay final.
ESPN College GameDay final.
On third round (did).
ARN-Sports, 9 p.m.-Tennis-Davis Cup: First round, Croatia vs. Team USA at Carson, lif., doubles (dld). IFN-Atlantic, 9 p.m.-Auto racing: NASCAR sch Grand National Mexico 200 (dld).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard Time: dld indicates delayed broadcast, Al listings are subject to change.

www.mvafn.net for more information.

Baseball Spring training glance AMERICAN LEAGUE

L Pct. 0 1.000 0 1.000 0 1.000 Baltimore Cleveland Detroit Tampa Bay Boston Kansas City 0 1.000 0 .000 0 .000 0 .000 0 .000 0 .000 0 .000 Kansas Cit Los Angele Minnesota New York Oakland Seattle Texas NATIONAL LEAGUE Atlanta Colorado Washington Los Angeles Arizona Chicago Milwaukee Pittsburgh San Diego San Francisco St. Louis .000 .000 Note: Split-squad games count in t standings; games against non-major leag teams do not.

salminings, spames, againsts non-major reague cames 60 n. Wednesday's games Pittsburgh 12, Manatec Ct. 0 Pittsburgh 12, Manatec Ct. 0 Salminings 12, Manatec Ct. 1 Salminings 12, Manatec Ct. 1 Salminings 12, Manatec Ct. 1 Salminings 1, Manatec Ct. 1 Salmi

Baltimore 8, Florifia 4
Atlanta 9, Los Anglels 8, 7 innings
Cleveland 7, Houston 1
Cleveland 7, Cleveland 1

Chicago White Sox vs. Arizona at Tucson

Ariz.
Milnnesota vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.
St. Louis vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucle, Fla.
Friday's game.
N.Y. Mets vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.
Los Angeles vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.
Toronto vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.
Cleveland vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla.
Florida vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale,

Fla. Philadelphia vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.

Tampa Bay vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota, Fla. N.Y. Yankees vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla. Northeastern vs. Boston (ss) at Fort

Ayers, Fla. Kansas City vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz. L.A. Angels vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz. Seattle vs. Milwaukee (ss) at Phoenix Miliwaukee (ss) vs. Oakland at Phoenix San Francisco vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa,

Ariz.
Chicago White Sox (ss) vs. Colorado at ariz. a vs. Chicago White Sox (ss) at Tuc-College vs. Boston (ss) at Fort

Auto racing

Busch Series standings

1. Kevin Harvick, 340; 2. Reed Sorenson, 293; 3. Carl Edwards, 298; 4. Clint Bowyer, 287; 5. Tony Stewart, 271; 6. Ashton Lewis, 254; 7. Joe Nemechek, 248; 8. Martin Truex Jr., 233; 9. Paul Menard, 220; 10. David A. Green, 218.

Craftsman Truck standings

Bobby Hamilton, 355; 2. Ricky Craven 330; 3. Jimmy Spencer, 321; 4. Ted Musgrave, 310; 5. Matt Crafton, 280; 6. Steve Park, 279; 7. Johnny Benson, 271; 8. David Reutimann, 256; 9. Dennis Setzer, 254; 10. Casey Atwood,

College basketball AP Men's Top 25 fared

Boston College (23-3) did not play. Next: it Rutgers, Saturday.
 Duke (21-4) did not play. Next: vs. Miami.

2004 State, Salurday,
2014 State Sta

Wednesday's men's scores

weunesday's men's scores
Carneja-Mullos (- Marylang 6)
Catholic 77, 05-size 17, 07
Catholic 77, 05-size 17, 07
Connected 83, decorptions of
Minister 18, 07
Mi Presbyterian 58, Mars Hill 54 UAB 81, DePaul 80, OT

IT'S KINDA LIKE WHEN THEY OPEN A MOVIE. THE STUDIOS KNOW AFTER

THE FIRST 24 HOURS IF THEY'VE BOT A HIT OR NOT

TANK MCNAMARA

Utah Valley St. 54. Longwood 50 Vanderbill TX, South Carolina 65 Vanderbill TX, South Carolina 65 Vanderbill TX, South Carolina 65 Vander TX, Bichmold 61 etc. 19 Vanderbill 70 etc. 19 Vanderbill 70

lexas I etch 7,2 Baylor bus 1 etch 2 Baylor bus 1 etch 2 Event 2 Event 2 Even 2

Richard Stockton 79, Manhattanville 78
Rutgers-Newark 76, Staten Island 63
ECAC New England Tournament
First Round

W. New England 70 Pyrmouth 51.68 ECAC Southern Tournament First Round Franklin & March 10 Pyrmouth 51.68 ECAC Southern Tournament First Round Scranton 62. Alvernia 52 ECAC Upstate Tournament First Round Brockport 98, Print 10 Pyrmouth 92 Hobart 88, Pittsburgh 74 Oswepo 51.70, Ithaca 51, Condition 10 Pyrmouth 10 Pyrmo

Skidmöre 84, Cortland St. St., UI
Frontier Conference
First Round
Carroll, Mont. 69, Montana Tech 58
Westminster, Utah 65, Great Falls 44
Gulf Coast Athletic Conference
Mobile 72, Spring Hill St.
Heartland Conference Tournam
Semifinals
Mary's Texas 69, Panhandle St. 6

St. Mary's, Texas 50; Panhandle St. 61 MSIC Tournament First Round First Round First Round St. 21, Minn. Moorhest St., Minn. M

Winous S. 196, Minn, Ascordeed 86, 207
Winous S. 196, Minn, Ascordeed 86, 207
We State S. 1974 Round
New Havon S. Adelphil 41
Production S. Adelphil 41
Production S. Adelphil 42
Production S. Adelphil 42
Production S. 1974 Round
American Altancia S. 1974
S. 1974 Round
S. 1974 Characteristics S. 1974
S. 1974 Character

MURRAY, I BEEN

THREE PAYS ON THE FREE-AGENT MARKET.

1 AIN'T HAP NO

OFFERS AT ALL?

OFFERS ALL

AP Women's Top 25 fared

Wednesday
1. LSU (27-1) did not play. Next: vs. Florida or Alabama. SEC tournament. Friday. or Alabama, SEC tournament, Friday.

2. Stanford (26-2) did not play. Next: vs. California or Washington State, Pac-10 tournament, Saturday.

3. Ohio State (27-3) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin or Indiana, Big Ten tournament, Friday.

Ohio State (27-3) did not play. Next: vs. Wjsconsin or Indiana, Bij Ten tournament, Friday.
 North Carolina (24-3) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia Tech or Miami, ACC tournament, Saturday.
 Tennessee (23-4) did not play. Next: vs. Auburn or Kentucky, SEC tournament, Fri-Auburn or Kentucky.

day. 6. Duke (26-3) did not play. Next: vs. Virgin-ia Tech or Wake Forest, ACC tournament,

6

7. Baylor (23-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 13 Texas Tech, Thursday.
8. Michigan State (25-3) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois or Northwestern, Big Ten tournament, Friday.

vs. Illinois or Northwestern, Bij Fen bourna-Norther (2-5) did not play, Next: vs. St. John's-Setten Hall winner. Big East tourna-sis of the Setten Hall winner. Big East tourna-tion of the Setten Hall winner. Big East tourna-le. Notre Dame (2-5) did not play, Next: vs. West. Wignia-Pitisburny winner. Big II. 1 texas (2-7) beat years A&M 69-57. Noxt: vs. TBA, Big 12 tournament, Wents: vs. East Cargolina or Memphis, CUSA tourna-tion of the Setten Hall winner. Big East Vo. 7 Bajnor. Thursday, Nox. 1 Setten Hall winner. Big East vs. Coorgetown-Syracuse winner, Big East vs. Coorgetown-Syracuse winner, Big East 14. Connecticut (20-7) did not play. Next: at 14. Connecticut (20-7) did not play. Next: vs. Georgetown-Syracuse winner, Big East tournament, Sunday. 15. Minneacts (20-7)

vs. Georgetomi-jyracuse winner, Big East Commanent, Sundig, did not play, Next vs. Durdue, Big Ten tournament, Friday, Lis. Termig (6-3), ald not play, Next vs. Lis. Termig (6-3), ald not play, Next vs. Lis. Vanades State (21-6) beat Missoud 17. Kansas State (21-6) beat Missoud Sci. Next vs. 178. Big 12 tournament, Lis. Vanderbilt (21-6) did not play, Next vs. Next vs. 178. Big 12 tournament, Lis. Vanderbilt (21-6) did not play, Next vs. Next Commanderbilt (21-6) did not play, Next vs. Despendent vs. Post Commanderbilt (21-6) did not 20. Nous State (27-5) did not play, Next vs. Als. Big 12 tournament, Wednesday, March Als. Big 12 tournament, Big 12 tournament, Big 12 tournament,

9.
21. Georgia (21-8) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi or South Carolina, SEC tournament, Friday.
College (19-8) did not play. Next: vs. Villanova-Providence winner, Big East tournament, Sunday.
23. Penn State (18-9) did not play. Next: vs. Lowa or Michigan. Big Ten tournament, Friday.

Wednesday's women's scores

MIDWEST
Drury 81, Lincoln, Mo. 40
Kansas St. 80, Missouri 53
SOUTHWEST
Incarnate Word 73, Panhandle St. 58
Texas 69, Texas A&M 57

Incarnet Wood 72, Ryshandie S. 58
Incarnet Wood 72, Ryshandie S. 58
Incare S. 1998
Incare S. 199

St. John Fisher 70, Keuka 65 Union, N.Y. 79, Hartwick 57 Eastern College Athletic Con First Round Lebanon Valley 71, Medaille 64 Frontier Conference

Lebanon Valley 71, Medaille 64
Frontier Conference
First Round
Carroll, Mont. 83, Westminster, Utah 72
Montlana-Western 71, Montlana Tech Montlana Sendern First Round
Loyola, No 57, Spring Hill 56, OT
Mobile 73, LSV-Shreveport 62
NCAA Div. III
First Round
Alvernia 60, Brund
Alvernia 60, Brund
Alvernia 60, Brund

First Round Alvernia 60, Brockport 38 Calvin 74, Franklin 60 Chapman 72, Cal Lutheran 65 Denison 51, Baldwin-Wallace 46 Emmanuel 43, Salem St. 41 Emmanuel 43, Salem St. 41 Ithaca 64, Colby-Sawyer 46 Mary Washington 69, Maryville, Ter McDaniel 71, Frostburg St. 64 Ripon 62, Rockford 57 S. Maine 83, Maine Maritime 67 Springfield 64, Richard Stockton 60

HEY LOOK, SOMETIMES IN MOVIES DON'T OPEN IN DO BIG, BUT THEY IN MAKE MONEY ON DID

HOW DO I MAKE A DVD OF ME, MURRAY...? MILLAR/HAIDS

St. Benedict 80. Simpson, Iowa 63
Trinity, Texas 57, Howard Payer 55
Trinity, Texas 57, Howard Payer 55
Trinity, Texas 57, Howard Payer 55
Westleyan, Conn. 6C, Chestrant Hill 46
Westlmister, Pa. 54, Dickinson 50, OT
Westleyan, Conn. 6C, Bertran 54
WSC, Townsment
Concordia, S.P. 10, Semidij St. 80
Minn. Moornlead 69, Winona 51, 64
Minn. Moornlead 69, Winona 51, 64
MYCAC Townsment
St. Thomas Augulana 70, Dowling 45
St. Thomas Augulana 70, Dowling 45 St. Thomas Aquinas 70, Dowling 45
SIAC Tournament
First Round
Albany, Ga. 84, Kentucky St. 54
Benedict 58, Miles 49

Benedict 58, Miles 49 LeMoyne-Owen 63, Lane 61 Paine 73, Clark Atlanta 56 South Atlantic Conferen First Round Newberry 73, Catawba 59 Southern Conference First Round Coll. of Charleston 69, Flon 39

W. Carolina 79, Wofford 62
West Virginia Conference
Quarterfinals
Charleston, W.Va. 80, W. Virginia St. 70
Glenville St. 69, Shepherd 61

West Liberty 84, Fairmont St. 73 Wheeling Jesuit 68, W. Va. Wesleyan 46

Tennis

Dubai Duty Free Women's Onen

Thursday
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Singles

The Hard-Outdoor Singles St. St. School (1988) St. School (1988) Switzerland, def. Anastasia Myskina (3), Russia, 6-7 (0), 7-6 (2), 6-2. Lindsap Oavenport (1), United States, def. Conchita Martinez, Spain, 6-1, 6-4. Serena Williams (2), United States, def. Daniela Martuchova, Slovakia, 6-4, 6-3. Sania AM-Burok, Serbia - St. Sania AM-Burok, Serbia - Sania - S Janiela Hantuchova, Slovakia, 6-4, 6-3.
Jelena Jankovic, Serbia-Montenegro, def.
Sania Mirza, India, 6-2, 6-2.

College baseball

Wednesday's scores SOUTH

Breaard S, Limeston S, Limesto evard 9. Limestone SÖUTHWEST
BYU 9, Oklahoma St. 8
FAR WEST
Washington 10, St. Martin's 1
TOURNAMENT
Rainbow Maseball Tournament
Louislana-Lafayette 4, South Florida 1
Wichita St. 9, Sacramento St. 3
UC-Davis 3, Hawaii 2

Golf

Dubai Desert Classic

Dubai Desert Classic Tunsely at Classic Tunsely at Entirets Colf Class's Mallis Course Deviated Scientific Class's Mallis Course Deviated Scientific Class's Mallis Classic Cl 32-34-66 34-33-67 Stephen Scahill, New Zealand Gregory Haver, France Ben Curtis, United States Correctly Haver, France Ben Curtis, United States Could Mentagener, Scotland Anders Hansen, Denmark Dender Auftroll, Hansen Hansen, Australia, Banar Daniston, Wales Bradley Derdge, Wales Bradley Derdge, Wales Bradley Derdge, Wales Stephen Offster, Bottland Steven O'Hurn, Scotland Mauren Latiblew, Heberlands Steven O'Hurn, Scotland Mauren Latiblew, Heberlands

34-33-67 34-33-67 34-34-68 34-34-69 33-36-69 35-34-69 35-34-69 35-34-69 35-34-69 35-34-69 32-37-69 35-34-69 32-37-69 34-35-70 35-35-70 34-36-70 35-35-70 35-35-70 34-36-70 35-35-70 35-35-70 36-34-70 36-34-70 35-35-70 32-38-70 33-37-70 33-37-70 35-35-70 35-37-70 35-35-70 35-35-70 34-36-70 35-35-70 34-36-70 35-35-70 35-35-70 36-34-70 37-33-70 J

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In his first game since breaking his thumb on Jan. 15, Washington Wizards guard Larry Hughes scored 31 points in a 101-98 win over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday night in Washington. The Wizards had lost two straight and five of six.

Hughes lifts Wizards with 31 in return

WASHINGTON - Larry Hughes made an emphatic and timely return to the Wizards on Wednesday, scoring 31 points in his first game since breaking his thumb to help lead Washington to a 101-98 victory over the Houston Rockets.

Hughes made 11 of 20 shots and had six rebounds and four assists, and backcourt partner Gilbert Arenas had 33 points, eight rebounds and five assists for the Wizards, who had lost two straight and five of six The Wizards have won eight straight when Hughes is in the lineup, but the previous seven came before he was sidelined after a victory over Phoenix on Jan. 15.

The Wizards blew a 17-point third-quarter lead but rallied from an eight-point fourth quarter deficit. Hughes' three-pointer gave Washington the lead for good with 3:16 remaining, part of a 13-2 run in which Hughes and Arenas combined for 11.

Brendan Haywood scored six of his 12 points in the final two minutes, including a short turnaround fadeaway jumper over Yao Ming to put the Wizards ahead 99-95 with 50 seconds left. Tracy McGrady made a three-pointer for his last of his 26 points with seven seconds remaining, but Arenas made two free throws with six seconds to play to put the Wizards up by three. McGrady, guarded by Hughes, missed a three-pointer that could have tied the game at the buzzer.

Hughes was injured when hit by Quentin Richardson in a drive to the paint during the win over the Suns. The Wizards went 9-11 during his absence and found them selves relying too heavily on Arenas, who averaged 29.4 points over the 20 games. Hughes entered the game leading the league in steals per game (2.82), and he remained the only NBA player averaging more than 20 points (21.2), five rebounds (6.1), five assists (5.3) and 2.5 steals.

Celtics 104, Lakers 101: At Boston Kobe Bryant scored 17 first-quarter points NBA

just 30 minutes after settling a lawsuit filed by the woman who accused him of rape, but he was scoreless in the fourth quarter - missing a

three-pointer just before the buzzer the Celtics sent the Lakers to their fourth consecutive loss

Paul Pierce had 29 points and nine re bounds, Ricky Davis scored 29 points and Antoine Walker had 16 with 13 rebounds in his first game in Boston since being reacquired at the trading deadline. The rejuvenated Celtics have won three straight since then and six straight at home overall.

Bryant finished with 26 points, and Chucky Atkins had 29, scoring 14 in the final 5:26 to keep the Lakers in the game.

Nets 99. 76ers 93: Vince Carter scored 26 of his 32 points in the second half, and Clifford Robinson added 18 points for visiting New Jersey.

Allen Iverson scored 37 points for Philadelphia, and Chris Webber had only 10 in his worst performance in three games for 76ers. Philadelphia has lost three of four since acquiring Webber from Sacramento last week.

The Nets have won three straight to close within 1½ games of second-place Philadelphia in the Atlantic Division.

SuperSonics 103, Cavaliers 86: Ray Allen scored 31 points, Vladimir Radmanovic hit five three-pointers and visiting Seattle spoiled Dan Gilbert's first game as the Cavaliers' owner.

Rashard Lewis added 20 points for the Sonics. LeBron James scored 32 points, matching a career high with five three-pointers for Cleveland. Magic 114, Kings 111: At Orlando,

Fla., Steve Francis had 29 points and 10 assists to help Orlando snap a three-game losing streak

Dwight Howard added 20 points and 16 rebounds for the Magic, Grant Hill had 20

points, and rookie Jameer Nelson had 19 points and six assists

Peia Stojakovic led Sacramento with 28 points in his first game after missing seven games because of a hamstring injury. Mike Bibby added 26 points and 10 assists.

Warriors 99, Timberwolves 93: Derek Fisher had 23 points and nine assists to lead Golden State to its sixth road victory

After trailing by 11 points in the third quarter, the Warriors opened the fourth

with a 16-2 run. Kevin Garnett had 28 points and 13 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

Spurs 92, Raptors 86: At San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 17 points, and Tony Parker added 15 to help the NBA-leading Spurs improve to 44-13 overall and 25-2 at

the SBC Center Chris Bosh led Toronto with 16 points.

Jazz 96, Hawks 74: At Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur scored 19 points to help Utah beat Atlanta for its first three-game winning streak since the opening week of the season.

Josh Childress led Atlanta with 21 points. The Hawks, playing the final game of a seven-game road trip, have lost 10 in a row overall and 21 straight on the road.

Hornets 94, Bobcats 85: Dan Dickau scored 18 points, Lee Nailon added 14 and P.J. Brown had 12 points and 15 rebounds for host New Orleans.

Brown and Nailon were the only players on the floor who played for the Hornets during their last season in Charlotte. Emeka Okafor led the Bobcats with 18

Clippers 101, Mavericks 92: At Los Angeles, Corey Maggette scored 34 points to help Los Angeles win its seventh straight home game and end Dallas' road winning streak at six games.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 25 points for the Mayericks

NBA scorehoard

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

	w	L	Pct	GR
Boston	30	28	.517	_
Philadelphia	27		474	21/2
New Jersev	26	32	448	4
New York	24	33	.421	51/2
	24	33	421	51/2
Toronto			.421	572
Southeast E	VIVIS	ion		
Miami	42	16	.724	_
Washington Orlando	32	24	.571	.9
	29	2/	.518	12
Charlotte	12	43	.218	281/2
Atlanta	10	47	.175	311/2
Central Di	visio			
Detroit	36	19	.655	-
Cleveland	31	25	.554	51/2
Chicago	29	25	.537	61/2
Indiana	28	28	.500	81/2
Milwaukee	23	32	.418	13
				13
Western Co				13
	nfe	rer	ice	_
Western Co Southwest I	nfe	rer	ice Pct	13 GB
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Western Co Southwest I San Antonio Dallas	nfe Divis W	rer	Pct .772	GB
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Western Co Southwest I San Antonio Dallas Houston Memphis	nfe Divis W 44 38 33 32	ion L 13 18 25 25	Pct .772 .679 .569	GB
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23 28 32 40 .754 .610 .500 .448 .298 A. Lakers 28 28 28 28 A. Clippers 26 32 20 den State Wednesday's games Washington 101, Houston 98 Seattle 103, Cleveland 86 Orlando 114, Sacramento 111 New Jersey 99, Philadelphia Boston 104, L.A. Lakers 101 New Jersey 95, Philadelphia 38 goston 104, La, Lakers 101 goston 105, La, Cilipers 101, Dallas 52 LA. Cilipers 101, Dallas 52 LA. Cilipers 101, Dallas 52 k. La, Cilipers 101, Dallas 52 goston 105, La, Cilipers 101, Dallas 52 goston 105, La, Cilipers 101, Dallas 52 goston 105, La, Cilipers 101, Dallas 52 k. La, Cilipers 101, Dallas 52 goston 105, La, Cilipers 101, Dallas 52 k. La, C

Saturday's g Denver at L.A. Clippers Washington at Charlotte Philadelphia at Atlanta Orlando at New Jersey Chicago at Milwaukee Portland at Phoenix

Wednesday Wizards 101. Rockets 98

WIZITUS 101, ROCKETS 90
HOUSTON — McGrady 9-19-6-8 26, Howard
5-10-2-2 12, Yao 3-9-5-7 11, James 10-22-0-24,
Wesley 3-8 2-2 10, Mutombo 0-2-3-4 3, Barry
4-5-2-2 12, Weatherspoon 0-2-0-0, Bowen
9-6-2-2 12, Weatherspoon 0-2-0-0, Bowen
9-6-2-2 12, Weatherspoon 0-2-0-1, Bowen
9-6-2-2 12, Weatherspoon 0-2-0-1, Bowen
9-6-2-2 12, Hughes
11-20-6-3 31, Arrans 9-20-13-16-31, Blake 2-11
0-0-5, Ruffin 0-1-0-0, Thomas 1-3-2-2-4, To153-8-77, 26-33 10.1.

Las 3-477 26-33 101.

Houston

Nets 99, 76ers 93

NEW JERSEY — Carter 8-19 12-14 32, Collins 3-8 2-4 8, Krstic 2-5 0-0 4, Vaughn 2-4 0-0 4, Kidd 6-14 0-0 15, Best 5-7 4-1 14, Robinson 5-11 6-6 18, Mercer 2-10 0-0 4, Buford 0-2 0-0 0, Smith 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-80 24-28 99. Smith 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-80 24-28 99.
 PHILADELPHIA – Korver 5-12 0-0 13, Webber 4-18 2-2 10, Dalembert 0-1 0-2 0, Iguodala 4-9 2-2 10, Iverson 13-28 8-8 37, Rogers 3-6 0-0 7, McKle 0-0 0-0 0, Jackson 6-8 2-2 14, Salmons 1-2 0-1 2. Totals 36-84 14-17 93. ns:30-37-vva, social 69-62 / 48, salitions.

New Jersey
Philadelphia 19-22 22 39-93
Three-Point Goals—New Jersey 9-19 (Carter 4-6, Kidd 3-6, Robinson 2-5, Buford 0-2),
Philadelphia 7-22 (Iverson 3-9), Korver 3-0,
Philadelphia 7-22 (Iverson 3-9), Korver 3-0,
Philadelphia 50, Goals 19-20, September 19-20, Septemb

Magic 114. Kings 111 SACRAMENTO - Stojakovic 7-12 11-11 28, Songaila 7-13 1-1 15, Skinner 6-10 0-0 12, Mob-

ley 6-14.1.2.14, Bibby 11-26.2-3.26, Thomas 3-4.2-2.8, Williamson 4-6.0-1, 8. Evans 6:1-0-0.00, COMMAND 6:1-0.00, COMMAD

10), Orlando 28 (Francis 10). Total Fouls—Sc ramento 22, Orlando 16. A—13,568 (17,248)

Sonics 103, Cavaliers 86

Sonics 103, Cavallers 86

SATTE - 1-1947 15-46 20, Figure 12-20

SATTE - 1947 15-46 20, Figure 12-20

SATTE - 1947 15-46 20, Figure 12-20

SATTE - 1947 15-46 20, Figure 12-21

SATTE - 1947 15-46 2

Celtics 104. Lakers 101

Celtics 104, Lakers 101
LALKERS - Buller 5:11:21, Joden 57, Otto 1, Mary 22, 27, Mary 10, Mary 22, Carlott 1, Mary 22, Carlott

Warriors 99, Timberwolves 93

GOLDEN STATE — Dunleavy 7-11 3-4 19, Murphy 3-10 5-6 11, Foyle 5-9 0-0 10, Richard-son 8-15 3-4 21, Fisher 7-15 6-7 23, Davis 2-11 1-1 6, Cabarkapa 2-3 2-2 7, Pietrus 0-2 0-0 0, White 0-1 0-0 0, Cheaney 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 35-78 20-24 99.

.....crus 6.2 0-0.0 s5-78 20-24 99. — Sprewell 7-18 0-0 15, Gar-nett 13-18 2-3 28, Johnson 1-2 0-0 2, Hassell 0, Szczerbiak 4-16 6-6 14, Carter 1-3 0-0 2, Madsen 1-1 0-0 2, Holberg 2-6 0-0 5. Totals 40-8 8-9 93. —

Totals 40-68 8-9 93. 29 24 24 31 3-9 36 Coleen State 2 20 24 24 31 3-9 36 Coleen State 2 20 24 24 31 3-9 36 Coleen State 2 20 24 25 24 25 25 Coleen State 2 25 Coleen State 2 25 Coleen State 2 25 Coleen State 2 26 Coleen State 2

Spurs 92, Raptors 86

San Antonio 21 21 28 22—92 Three-Point Goals—Toronto 5-12 (Aliston 2-2, Murray 1-2, Rose 1-2, Marshall 1-4, Peterson 0-2.) San Antonio 7-22 (Horry 2-2, Bowen 2-5, Barry 1-3, Ginobill 1-4, Udrin 1-4, Parker 0-2, Brown 0-2). Fouled Out-Hone. Rebounds—Toronto 41 (Marshall 9), San Antonio 33 (Duncan 11). Assists—Toronto 15 (Palacio 6), San Antonio 23 (Parker 7). Total Fouls—Toronto 21, San Antonio 22. (Parker 7). Total Fouls—Toronto 21, San Antonio 22.

Hornets 94, Bobcats 85

CHAROTTE — Wallace 6-8 1-2 13, Okafor 6-1, 6-9 13, Brezze 2-10 4-48, Knight 6-16 6-9, 16-9 13, Brezze 2-10 4-48, Knight 6-16 6-9, 16-9 13, Brezze 2-10 4-48, Knight 6-16 6-9, 16-12 4-18, Hallen 1-2 6-9, T-5 mith 9-2 6-9, Alexander 9-0 9-9, 16-12 4-9, Hallen 1-2 6-9, T-5 mith 9-2 6-9, Alexander 9-0 9-9, Mex Med Relation 1-2, 11 6-8 10, Brown 5-12 2-12, Dickau 6-14 2-2 coloren 2-5-2 6-8, Nullon 6-14-2-2 14, Claston 6-14 6-9, Nullon 6-14-2-2 14, Claston 7-6 14-9, Nullon 6-14-2-2 14, Claston 7-6 14-2-2 14, Claston

21 18 29 17-85 25 21 26 22-94

Jazz 96, Hawks 74

ATLANTA — 1.5mith 4:15 2.2 (0, harrington 4.1 (2, 10, harrington 4.1

18 23 19 14-74 28 25 21 22-96 Utah
Three-Point Goals-Atlanta. 15 Childress
1-1, Drobnjak 6-1, Ismith 6-1, Harrington
6-2), Utah 5-12 (Bell 3-4, McLeod 1-1, Snyder
1-2, Kirlienko 6-1, Harpring 6-1, Eisley 6-1,
Giricek 6-2), Fouled Out-None. Rebound-Atlanta 48 (J.Smith 7), Utah 49 (Kirlienko
7), Assists-Atlanta 13 (Harrington 7), Utah
25 (Kirlienko, McLeod 6), Total Fouls-Atlan-Utah

 Assists—Atlanta 13 (Harrington 7), Utar 25 (Kirilenko, McLeod 6). Total Fouls—Atlan-ta 27, Utah 26. Technical—Utah Defensive Three Second. A—17.766 (19.911). Clippers 101, Mavericks 92

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NHL hears bid for buyout

The Associated Press

TORONTO - An investment firm and a sports advisory company reportedly made a joint propos-al to buy all 30 NHL teams for as much as \$3.5 billion

The two Boston companies were invited by NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman to present the highly unusual offer the Toronto Star and Globe and Mail reported Thursday. Bain Capital Partners LLC and Game Plan LLC made their pitch Tuesday in New York to NHL owners, whose season has been shut down by a lockout.

Game Plan chairman Robert Caporale confirmed to WBZ radio in Boston that the companies had offered more than \$3 billion

"It's taking the National Hockev League and its 30 teams and operating it as any large corporation does with each team essentially being a division of one company. Caporale said. "We would keep in place team management, team presidents, the GMs. They would be completely autonomous."

Caporale described team owners as "very attentive" but questions the level of support.

"I don't think it's realistic, and I don't think there's much interest, and I know there's no interest on the part of the Bruins," Bruins owner Jeremy M. Jacobs said. "And I think it takes 30 (team owners) to do it."

Sports briefs

Bain Capital spokesman Sam Hollander declined to immediately comment Thursday to The Associated Press.

"The substance of the presentation and the reaction of the board" are "internal league matters and ones on which we are not prepared to comment fur-Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, said in a statement Thursday

Davenport, Williams advance in Dubai Women's Open

DUBAL United Arab Emirates - Lindsay Davenport and Serena Williams cruised through the Dubai Open quarterfinals Thursday, remaining on course for a repeat of their Australian Open final

Meanwhile, French Open chamnion Anastasia Myskina sauandered a match point and was ousted by eighth-seeded Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 6-7 (0), 7-6 (2),

Davenport beat wild card Conchita Martinez of Spain 6-1, 6-4 in 77 minutes, while Australian Open champion Williams handled Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia 6-4, 6-3 in 68 minutes.

Davenport will meet Schnyder

in Friday's semifinals, and Williams faces Jelena Jankovic of Serbia and Montenegro.

SEC football to use instant replay in '05 season

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - The Southeastern Conference will use instant replay on an experimental basis during league games for the

University presidents and chancellors approved the change on Thursday, a day after athletic directors voted for it.

Details of the league's instant replay plan will be decided during the SEC spring meetings, held May 31-June 3.

S. Carolina players suspended COLUMBIA, S.C. - Two South Carolina football players have been suspended indefinitely from the team after police said two televisions were stolen from university dorm rooms, the latest in a

string of disciplinary problems since late last season. Defensive end Moe Thompson, a junior, and tackle Kevin Mainord, a redshirt freshman, were suspended, athletics spokesman Kerry Tharp said Wednesday.

Mainord was arrested and charged with two counts of first-degree burglary and two counts of simple larceny. Thompson has not been arrested or charged in the incident, university spokesman Russ McKinney said.



Ernie Els watches his shot on the third hole during the first day of the Dubai Desert Classic at the Emirates Golf Club in Dubai, UAE, Thursday.

Els in front in Dubai after first-round 66

DUBAL United Arab Emirates - Ernie Els shot a 6-under 66 Thursday for a one-shot lead after the first round of the Dubai Desert Classic

Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain and David Howell of England each had a 67, with Jarrod Lyle of Australia and Sam Osborne of England at 68.

"A 66 at the end of the day was a good day's work," Els said.

"I was happy with the way I played the par-5s because if you don't make fours there, you are losing ground against the field." Els, seeking his first victory of the season, birdied three of the

four par-5s. Nine players, including former champion Thomas Bjorn, were three strokes behind. Colin Montgomerie and Ben Curtis, the 2003 British Open champion, shot 70s and defending champion Mark

Els said he spoke with his sports psychologist during his three-week golf break.

"We get bogged down trying to play the perfect game," the South African said. "But I got back to basics

Els. with just one finish outside the top 10 in his last 17 starts, is relaxed and ready to attack the

"If I see a shot, I am going to hit it," he said. "I saw a lot of drivers today and I stuck to my game plan and went for it.

The 41-year-old Jimenez won five times on the European tour last year.

"I am like a good wine, you know, getting better with age," he

The tournament featured two holes-in-one in the morning -Kenvan-born Englishman Yasin Ali on the 186-yard seventh and Japan's Nobuhito Sato on the 180-yard 15th.

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Scott argues against guaranteed contracts

NEW ORLEANS - New Orleans coach Byron Scott called for non-guaranteed contracts in the NBA - and took a shot at former Hornets guard Baron Davis, too.

Basketball should be just like the NFL - no guaranteed contracts. Watch

ty of the game NBA goes up then," briefs Scott

said Wednesday before night the Hornets faced the Charlotte Bobcats. "Guys will show up and play because if they don't and they get cut, what are they going

"[In football] you have guys playing with broken arms beise they know they could get cut tomorrow. [In the NBA] these guvs get a broken fingernail and say, 'I'm out for two weeks.' '

While Scott did not name Davis specifically, he smiled when reporters asked if his comments ap plied to the recently traded star point guard.

Shortly after returning from an early season back injury, Davis turned his right ankle in a game at Toronto in January and missed 17 games because of a bruised Achilles' tendon. He returned for one game before being traded to Golden State last week in exchange for Speedy Claxton.

"I never hard of a guy sprain-

ing an ankle, then missing two weeks." Scott said. "You never heard about that in the '80s (when Scott played with the Los Angeles Lakers). That's unbelievable Scott's comments came only

days after Davis, who was an gered earlier this season when the Hornets barred his personal trainer from practice, compared playing for New Orleans to "being

Bobcats' Rush out 4-6 weeks

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Charlotte Bobcats guard Kareem Rush will miss 4-6 weeks after spraining his left knee during Wednesday night's loss at New Orleans. A MRI performed after the

game revealed the sprain, the team said Thursday. Rush went down with 8:38 left in the third quarter after running

into a pick and had to be helped off the court.

Chandler fined for gesture

NEW YORK - Chicago for ward Tyson Chandler was fined \$10,000 by the NBA on Wednesday, one day after making an obscene gesture toward an official during the Bulls' loss to the Houston Rockets

With 3:24 left in the third quarter Tuesday night, Chandler lost his cool and drew a technical. He made an obscene gesture in the direction of referee Sean Corbin after being called for a foul.

Settle: Sides negotiate deal

SETTLE, FROM BACK PAGE

O'Meara a 73.

Like the criminal case, the civil case ultimately would have rested on the testimony of a woman Bryant's attorneys accused of being a promiscuous, attention-seeking liar. Among other things, the defense suggested she had sex with someone after leaving Bryant and before she contact. ed authorities - a claim her attornevs hotly contested.

Speculation that a settlement close increased Monday after L. Lin Wood, one of the woman's attorneys, said Bryant's long-awaited denosition three days earlier had been called off.

Colorado law makes it difficult for plaintiffs in civil cases to win more than about \$733,000. Wood has said that amount was too low to fairly compensate the woman for the harm she claimed to have suffered. Sports marketers have estimated Bryant lost \$4 million to \$6 million in endorsement con

tracts after his arrest. He has not

appeared in Nike commercials since the allegations surfaced. and McDonald's and Nutella did not renew their deals with him after his arrest.

Cynthia Stone, spokeswoman the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault, said she hopes the settlement brings some sense of justice and closure for the accuser, who moved from state to state to avoid media scrutiny last year.

The defense team in the criminal case managed to get reams of paper filled with rumor and innuendo about this young woman's prior sexual history out into the public," Stone said.

As a result, victims' advocates are lobbying for a bill intended to tighten Colorado's "rape shield law. The bill, which has passed the state Senate, would prohibit discussion of an alleged victim's sexual history during a preliminary hearing unless a judge rules otherwise.

Associated Press Writers P. Solomon Banda, Judith Kohler, Catherine Tsai and Erin Gartner contributed to this report.

Calhoun joins the club

Connecticut coach joins Krzyzewski and Boeheim with 700th victory as Huskies batter Georgetown

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO
The Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — For the third time this season, and second time in less than a week, another name was added to the list of coaches with 700 victories.

Jim Calhoun became the 18th Division I coach — and seventh active — to reach the mark when No. 15 Connecticut beat Georgetown 83-64 on Wednesday night. Duke's Mike Krzyzewski reached the milestone in December and Syracuse's Jim Boeheim got there last Saturday.

"This is a very special night for Connecticut. It's a special night for me and it's a very special night for our players," Calhoun said. "A coach is only a reflection of so many assistants and great players."

Calhoun, 62, is in his 33rd year as a coach, won 248 games in 14 seasons at Northeastern and has 452 in 19 seasons at Connecticut, which he transformed from a decent regional program into a national nower.

He has led the Huskies to two national championships (1999 and 2004), 14 Big East titles and an NIT championship.

Some of his former players who are now NBA stars — Ray Allen, Richard Hamilton, Emeka Okafor — congratulated Calhoun in a video tribute shown after the game

His current players did their part, too.

Charlie Villanueva scored 24 points and freshman Rudy Gay added a season-high 20 in a game that turned into a celebration in the late going. The sellout crowd

44 It means we're either getting older or getting better. Let's just hope we're getting better.

> Jim Boeheim Syracuse coach and 700-game winner

of 10,167 stood for the closing seconds, chanting "700" and wildly waving placards printed with the number. "We were definitely focused

and pumped up for this game," Villanueva said. "We wanted to do this for Coach and we did."

The Huskies (20-6, 12-3) made sure they put this one away early, well ahead of the celebration. The Huskies have been one of the hottest teams in the conference down the stretch, winning their last eight Big East games, to tie Boston College for first place.

The streak is due in large part to the emergence of point guard Marcus Williams, who leads the league in assists. He finished with 11 points and eight assists Wednesday.

"He makes us go," Calhoun said of Williams. "He throws passes that most kids can't see. He makes everybody's jobs so much

The Hoyas (16-10, 8-7) continued to slide, losing their fourth straight. Freshman Jeff Green led Georgetown with 17 points and helped get the Hoyas out to a quick start.

Green opened the game with a three-pointer as the Hoyas hit their first three shots from beyond the arc and played the Huskies close for several minutes. The Hoyas' biggest lead was 19-15 with 12:10 left, but it didn't last long.

The Huskies blew open the game with a stifling press and 20-3 run that started with a driving layup by Williams.

He also assisted on spectacular dunks by Villanueva and Gay. But what brought the fans to their feet was Williams' steal and over-the head half-court pass to Gay who was fouled as he went in for the dunk. Gay hit both shots to cap the run and give Connecticut a 39-24 lead. Gay's fallaway at the buzzer put Connecticut up 41-26 at halftime.

Georgetown would get no closer than 14 points thereafter and the Huskies' ever-intense coach made sure his team played hand until the end. He angrily flung his sport coat in the middle of an 11-2 Georgetown run early in the second half and called a timeout. The Huskies quickly regrouped and the rout was on.

"Everything he does, he wants you can be," Williams said. "His expectations are high because he knows you can achieve. It's an honor to be here with Coach."

Boeheim, whose Orange (24-5) close the regular season Saturday at Storrs, also was part of the video tribute and welcomed Calhoun into the 700 club.

"It means we're either getting older or getting better," Boeheim said. "Let's just hope we're getting better. We'll see you Saturday."



Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun blows a kiss to the crowd following the Huskies' 83-64 defeat of Georgetown, Calhoun's 700th career victory.

Seniors have their day in Kentucky home finale

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — If it weren't true, it would be an unbelievably sappy story line: Two seniors — one of whom had limited playing time during his career — starred in their final home game. Chuck Hayes and Josh Carrier went out in style Wednesday

went out in style Wednesday night, leading No. 3 Kentucky to a 73-61 victory over Tennessee.

Hayes scored nine of his 13 points in the final 5½ minutes for the Wildcats (23-3, 14-1), who already had clinched the Southeastern Conference title. Kentucky has one regular-season game remaining, on Sunday at Florida.

That Hayes starred against Tennessee wasn't too surprising since the forward has started 102 consecutive games. Carrier's performance was unexpected.

The guard made his first career start and set career highs for minutes (19) and points (nine) while shooting 3-for-5 from three-point range. And his three-pointers came at opportune moments for Kentucky.

"It was a well-played-out script



for two young men wno are misning their careers in front of their fans," Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said. "If you were writing a script about how you want the game to play out, it unfolded the right way.
"Chuck made the plays down."

"Chuck made the plays down the stretch when we needed clutch scoring. We kept going to him and he kept delivering. Josh made his threes in the first half and really did a good job defensively against Chris Lofton."

The Volunteers (12-16, 5-10) hung with the Wildcats for most of the game, tying it 55-55 with 8:25 left on the fifth three-pointer of the game by Lofton, a freshman guard who was Kentucky's Mr. Basketball in 2004.

Tennessee didn't score again until 1:53 remained, and Kentucky scored 16 of the next 18 points to extend its winning streak over the Volunteers to seven games.

After Lofton's basket, Tennessee missed three chances to take the lead before Hayes gave the Wildcats the lead for good with a three-point play with 5:18 left. That was Kentucky's first basket in more than 9½ minutes. Hayes — who missed all but 6

Hayes — who missed all but 6 minutes of the first half after picking up two early fouls — seemed determined to make sure the Wildcats won his last home game.

With Kentucky up 59-55, Hayes came up with a breakaway dunk after making a steal. On Kentucky's next possession, he worked underneath for a basket, making it 63-55 with 3:15 left.

Hayes capped his burst with a dunk with 1:23 left, and the fan favorite left to a standing ovation with 54 seconds left. He finished 5-for-6 from the field.

Hayes and Carrier teared up after the game, when they joined their teammates and a crowd of 24,205 in singing "My Old Kentucky Home."

"I didn't think it would get to me and I didn't think I'd cry," Hayes said. "I tried to look at the ground when they played 'My Old Kentucky Home,' but I looked up and saw all the signs. It just came over me at once and hit me."

No. 4 Wake Forest 98, Georgia Tech 91: Vytas Danelius had 17 points and 11 rebounds and the Demon Deacons (25-4, 12-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) rallied from 11 points down in the second half to finish 16-0 at home.

Jarrett Jack had 23 points for the Yellow Jackets (16-10, 7-8). No. 7 Kansas 72, Kansas St.

65: Senior Wayne Simien had 25 points and a career-high 20 re-bounds as Kansas (22-4, 12-3 Big 12) celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first game played at Allen Fieldhouse. The Jayhawks clinched at least a tie for the Big 12 championship with their 30th straight victory over the Wildcats

No. 8 Oklahoma St. 69, Texas A&M 63: John Lucas III scored 27 points for the Cowboys (21-5, 11-4 Big 12), who snapped a two-game losing streak by hitting 15 straight free throws down the stretch. Oklahoma State extended the nation's longest current home winning streak to 29 games.

No. 14 Michigan St. 69, Northwestern 58: Maurice Ager scored 20 points, including a clutch three-pointer with 3:30 left that curtailed Northwestern's comeback from an 18-point deficit, as the visiting Spartans (21-5, 12-3 Big Ten) won for the seventh time in eight games.

No. 19 Villanova 79, Seton Hall 58: Randy Foye scored 27 points as the Wildcats (20-6, 10-5 Big East) reached 20 victories for the first time since 2000.

No. 21 Alabama 94, Auburn 53: Earnest Shelton and Kennedy Winston each scored 24 points for the Crimson Tide (22-6, 11-4 Southeastern Conference), while Auburn (12-16, 3-12), lost its fifth straight.

No. 22 Cincinnati 77, Tulane 56: Jihad Muhammad made six three-pointers and scored a career-high 24 points as the Bearcats (23-6, 11-4 Conference USA) handed Tulane (9-17, 3-12) its fifth straight loss.

With much fanfare, Nats spring into action

Washington debuts with 5-3 win over Mets

By HOWARD FENDRICH

The Associated Press

VIERA, Fla. - It had been 12,207 days since a team represented Washington on a major league diamond

For the fans and the players, it seemed to be worth the wait, even if this was only spring

With "Nationals" stitched on home white jerseys for the first time, and with a vocal near-sellout crowd in the stands, the team formerly known as the Montreal Expos beat the New York Mets and new manager Willie Randolph 5-3 Wednesday in the spring training opener for both teams

"We're the Washington Nationals now, we're not the Montreal Expos anymore. It's nice to be in one place, and not traveling like those guys were traveling last year," said outfielder Jose Guillen, who hit a two-run homer in his first game since being acquired from

"That's one of the reasons [general manag er Jim Bowden] brought me here. I said, 'If vou're in the same situation, don't even ask me here.' He promised me we were going to have a home.

It's about time, after the Expos weathered the threat of contraction, "home" games in Puerto Rico, and a drawn-out agreement to move to Washington. The nation's capital hasn't had a baseball team since the Senators left for Texas after the 1971 season

"It was special because of the situation. We're all aware of it. You always try to keep your perspective that it's an exhibition game, Nationals manager Frank Robinson said. "It's the next step, getting a little closer to the real thing, and you do get excited about that. You can't get too up, though.'

Tell that to the fans

An announced sellout of 7,558 began arriving more than five hours before game time,



The Washington Nationals take the field Wednesday for their spring training opener. The attendance of 7,558 was larger than the crowd for half of the team's final 14 games in Montreal.

oping for a photo, autograph glimpse of a player. The line at the stadium gates was several dozen deep when they opened 11/2 hours before the first pitch.

The attendance was bigger than it was for half of the team's final 14 games in Montreal Even the Mets were impressed by the turn-

"It was pretty cool. It's not often that the first game of spring training is nationally televised. I'm happy for those guys," said New York starter Tom Glavine, who allowed two hits in two scoreless innings

Washington's starters sprinted onto the field at 1:02 p.m. EST, and a minute later came another first in Nationals history, albeit a tad more dubious: the debut of the team theme song, "We Are the Washington Nationals," which sounded like AC/DC. Blessid Union of Souls recorded the song and offered it to Bowden

"I was wondering, 'What's going on?' It was like head-banging, then it said 'Nationals' and it was pretty cool," outfielder Brad Wilkerson said. "It's pretty cool to have your own song. It was pretty upbeat. We didn't have a song in Montreal

There were a lot of positive signs for the Nationals on Wednesday

Starter Tony Armas Jr., who missed most of the past two seasons after major shoulder surgery, worked two hitless innings with two strikeouts. He threw 28 pitches and said he didn't feel any pain.

The three key new position players Guillen, Cristian Guzman and Vinny Castilla - each had a hit. Jose Vidro, who missed the final six weeks last season to have right knee surgery, singled and scored a run.

Chad Cordero struck out the side in the ninth, putting the Nationals' first victory in the books.

"We're undefeated. We've never lost a game, so that's exciting," Bowden said.

Robinson feted by Congress

BY ERICA WERNER The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jackie Robinson was posthumously awarded a Congressional Gold Medal on Wednesday, more than half a century after breaking baseball's color barrier.

President Bush gave Congress' highest honor to Robin-son's widow, Rachel Robinson, in a stately ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. The Democratic and Republican leaders of the House and Senate and the commissioner of major league baseball looked on.

"His story is one that shows what one person can do to hold America to account to its founding promise of freedom and equality," Bush said. "It's a lesson for people coming up to see. One person can make a big difference in setting the tone of this country."

When Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, professional baseball was segregated. He died in 1972 and his No. 42 was retired throughout baseball in 1997

"This medal confirms what we know," Rachel Robinson said, "Jackie Robinson stands as a heroic role model for all Americans who believe in justice and equality

Speakers extolled Robinson as a courageous athlete who suffered taunts and slurs from fans and fellow players, ignoring them as he proved to be a brilliant ballplayer and a civil

Innings-eater Weaver happy to be part of a winner

By JOHN NADEL The Associated Press

VERO BEACH, Fla. - Jeff Weaver's first season with the Los Angeles Dodgers was a success - everywhere but in the win column.

The right-hander the New York Yankees couldn't wait to get rid of after the 2003 sea son, worked at least six innings and gave up three runs or less in 25 of his 34 starts for the Dodgers. In 220 innings, he had an ERA of 4.01 - almost two runs fewer than the previous year. But what did all those eye-catching statis

tics add up to? A 13-13 record for a playoff

"He could have won 18, at least, without throwing one pitch differently last year," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said. "What else could you ask from him? We didn't score any runs for him in the early part of the season."

Weaver said he wasn't frustrated.

"A lot of games I did come out of, we ended up winning," he said. "It's so much easier to throw things out when you're winning. That's nothing you have control over. goal was to become that 200-inning pitcher, to be able to throw those quality starts.

"Consistency, that's what I've always strived for. Everybody in that dugout feels I'm going to give us a chance to win. That's what I was most happy about last year. Getting to the postseason was a lot more satis-



Jeff Weaver was a hard-luck 13-13 for NL West champion Los Angeles last season.

fying than in New York - I was a part of the action. Weaver struggled in his first outing this

spring, allowing six runs and seven hits six for extra bases — in 21/3 innings against the Atlanta Braves on Thursday. It was an appearance more typical of his last season

The 28-year-old Weaver was traded to the Yankees by the Detroit Tigers during the 2002 season. He went 5-3 with a 4.04 ERA in 15 appearances, eight of them starts, after the trade.

The following year was a disaster. Weaver was 7-9 with a 5.99 ERA in 24 starts and eight relief appearances.

"It was frustrating going through it; a lot of sleepless nights," he recalled.

He pitched just once in the postseason, giving up a game-ending home run to the Florida Marlins' Alex Gonzalez in Game 4 of the World Series

Weaver didn't pitch again for New York and was traded to the Dodgers for Kevin Brown in the offseason.

It was just what he needed. And what

made it even better is that Weaver grew up outside of Los Angeles in Simi Valley, and grew up a Dodgers fan

"Big time," he said with a smile. "I went to 20 to 30 games a year. I never felt the pressure I thought I might with coming home. I could definitely feel a difference from one year to the next. It was probably my most satisfying season - pitching well and helping the team win.

"To come to L.A., where I had always dreamed of pitching, it was a lot of fun."
Weaver said while he didn't believe he ever lost his confidence, things weren't right for him in New York "Going back and forth from starting to

the bullpen, it was just confusion as far as my approach was concerned," he recalled. "My mechanics were way off. You always have questions in your head when you struggle.

Dodgers catcher David Ross said he believes confidence was the key for Weaver last year

"It's that little bit of arrogance — he got that back," Ross said.

Weaver sounds very confident now. "I want to be the best every time I go out

there. I don't settle for anything less said. "I've dealt with success. I've dealt with failure. I really feel like my whole game is coming together, physically and

"I want to be the ace of this staff. I want to be the ace of any staff I pitch on. Hopefully we've got five of them

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RACING STRIPES A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Strong, silent type

Unsung Biffle might be man to beat in Nextel Cup

The Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif.

eople tend to overlook Greg Biffle. At 35, he certainly isn't one of NASCAR's so-called Young Guns, nor is he a big talker who elicits much attention. But Biffle definitely has cre dentials

A newspaper recently did an anonymous survey of 15 Nextel Cup drivers, asking their opinion on the best in the series. Biffle was on a very short list led by four-time champion Jeff Gordon.

Biffle is the only driver to have won championshins in the Rusch and Craftsman Truck series. Now, he's giving every indication of being a serious contender for another title in his third full season on NASCAR's top circuit.

"Biffle is no surprise to anybody in the NASCAR garage," said teammate and series champion Kurt Busch. "Everybody knows what a good driver he is and how tough he and that No. 16 team can be if they put it all together." Although his first two years in

the Cup series produced finishes of 20th and 17th in the standings, the driver from Vancouver, Wash., has four victories. But two of those wins have come in his last three races - the season-finale last year at Homestead-Miami Speedway and last Sunday at California Sneedway.

The victory at California was particularly impressive, with Biffle twice coming from far back in the field and leading the last 23 laps.

It was apparently no surprise to Biffle who predicted he would win the race after testing at the track in January

"After that test, I had a pretty strong feeling that we would win out here if somecrazy didn't happen, he explained

But that doesn't mean it was easy. He muscled his ill-handling Ford to the end, beating hard-charging Jim-mie Johnson by six car-lengths.

"This was the toughest of my life to earn," Biffle said. "We overcame more in that race than I ever have in a race car. The car was so loose at times I could hardly keep it going in the right direction, and I didn't know why."

Now, thanks to that masterful driving job - and despite a 25th-place finish in the season-opening Daytona 500 — Biffle is fifth in the standings, trailing 44 Biffle is no surprise to anubody in the NASCAR garage. Everybody knows what a good driver he is and how tough he and that No. 16 team can be if they put it all together."

Kurt Rusch

Riffle's teammate

2004 Nextel Cup champion

Biffle gave car owner Jack Roush his first NASCAR title when he won the truck champi-onship in 2000, and added the Busch championship two years later. Now, Biffle would like nothing better than to present his boss a third straight Cup title.

Matt Kenseth gave Roush his first in 2003. 'I've learned a lot about myself and the way ou have to race to win in Nextel Cup," said Biffle, who has been in some trouble on the track by being overly aggressive. "I really think we've got every-

thing we need to be contenders. "I think Jack gives us everything we need. Now we just have to put it togeth-

er and make it happen." It wouldn't surnrise crew chief Doug Richert if Biffle becomes the first driver to win titles in all three of NASCAR's top touring circuits.
"I really feel this team is

ready." Richert said. "The team has matured, and we've figured out what we need to give Greg for him to win.' Richert knows a bit about

calling the shots for championship teams. He was the crew chief in 1980, when the late Dale Earnhardt won the first of his record-tving seven titles.

Roush, who also fields Cup cars for Busch, Kenseth, longtime star Mark Martin and promising newcomer Carl Edwards, has stood behind Biffle even when the driver made disparaging remarks about the team last year.

"There has never been any doubt about his talent said Roush, who signed Biffle sight unseen after a recommendation from former NASCAR champion Benny

Parsons. "He has the ability to do just about anything he wants in this sport, and I expect him to do it for our team

But, after just two of 36 races, Biffle doesn't want anybody to get too excited.

He shrugged when asked if his victory here is a sign of things to come

"I don't know," Biffle said. "I'll let everyone else figure that one

Greg Biffle's victory in the Auto Club 500 on Sunday was only his fourth in Nextel Cup, but it was his second in the past three races. Biffle also is the only driver to win championships in the Busch and Craftsman Truck series.

Next race:

UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 March 13. Las Vegas Motor Speedway

NEXTEL CUP

Last race: Greg Biffle took the lead on lap 228 and held off a hard-charging Jimmie Johnson to win the Auto Club 500 at Fontana, Calif. Biffle twice came back from as far back as 30th position.

DRIVER STANDINGS

2. J

18. Scott Riggs .

2. Jimmie Johnson	335
3. Mark Martin	
4. Carl Edwards	
5. Greg Biffle	
6. Elliott Sadler	.272
7. Tony Stewart	
7. Rusty Wallace	
9. Sterling Marlin	.260
10. Jeff Gordon	.258
11. Dale Jarrett	.248
12. Ryan Newman	
13. Kevin Harvick	
14. Dale Earnhardt Jr	.237
15. Mike Bliss	
16. Kyle Petty	.231
17. Jamie McMurray	.227

BUSCH SERIES

224

Last race: Mark Martin extended his Busch Series record for wins to 47 with his victory at the Stater Bros. 300 in Fontana, Calif. It was Martin's first win in the series since 2000.

since 2000.

Bast Year: Inpugural race,
Fast facts: This is the series' first race outside the United States... Three of the 13
side the United States... Three of the 13
been won by the polesitter... Ten of the drivresentered in this race are from Mexico...
NASCAR suspended Todd Lohse. Shame
NASCAR suspended Todd Lohse. Shame
this 10,000 for unapproved hinged air deflector modifications on the car during inspector in sat weekers. idst Weekend. of race: Sam's Town 300 March 12 Las

This week: Season-opening Australian Grand Prix at Melbourne. Last year: Last year: Marchael Schumacher Last year: Michael Schumacher year: Michael Schumacher Last year: Michael Prix, pacing teammate Rubens Barrichello in a 1-2 finish of Ferraris. Schumacher led from start to finish and completed the race in 1 hour; 24 min-bad of Barrichello onds — 13.6 seconds believed of Barrichello onds — 13.6 seconds believed of Barrichello onds — 13.6 seconds when the second price of the secon

INDY RACING

This week Season-pening Toyota Indy AFN Pacific, AFN Noreal.
AFN Pacific, AFN P

ing three lanes for racing. The banking was six degrees in previous seasons. Next race: XM Satellite Radio Indy 200 March 19, Avondale, Ariz.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCKS

Last race: Steve Park earned his first truck series win by taking the American Racing Wheels 200 at Fontana, Calif, Park's previous victory came with the Nextel Cup series in February. 201, seven months before he sus-tained a serious head injury following a rash at Darlington. Next race: World Financial Group 200, Mext mace: Morld Financial Group 200, Mext part 18, Hampton, Ga.

CHAMP CARS

Next race: Season-opening Toyota GP of Long Beach (Calif.), April 10. Standings for other series on Page 33.

NFC teams busy on Day 2 of free agency

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

NFC teams were busy on the second day of free agency, trying to catch up with the conference champion Philadelphia Eagles. Two of the Eagles' NFC East rivals made

big moves Thursday. Dallas added defensive tackle Jason Ferguson from the New York Jets and guard Marco Rivera from Green Bay on Thurs-



day after signing cornerback Anthony Henry on Wednesday

The New York Giants were set to sign middle linebacker Antonio

Pierce, who emerged as a top defender for Washington last season in his first year as

And Carolina, the 2003 NFC champion, signed sought-after guard Mike Wahle, cut by Green Bay for salary cap reasons and former Seattle Seahawks cornerback Ken Lucas. Both were declared instant starters by coach John Fox

That made Washington, usually the biggest out-of-the-gate spender in free agency, the loser for the day in its division, a place where the Eagles finished 13-3 and the Giants, Cowboys and Redskins were

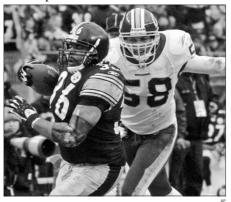
Pierce's departure to a division opponent was conceded by Redskins coach Joe Gibbs, who had identified the 26-year-old linebacker as one of the "core players" he wanted to keep. But New York's reported offer of a six-year. \$26 million deal was too much for the usually free-spending Redskins.

"We went as far as we could go, I felt like," Gibbs said. "It's something that just didn't work out. I hate it. It's not going to happen very often to us, but there's times when it could happen."

Meanwhile, San Francisco signed offensive lineman Jonas Jennings, formerly of the Buffalo Bills and regarded as the best left tackle available

That position is usually at a premium, although Jennings isn't in the class of the best

Cowboys add DT Ferguson, OG Rivera; Giants poach LB Pierce from Redskins



Antonio Pierce (58), chasing Pittsburgh's Jerome Bettis (36) last year, led Washington's third-ranked defense in tackles last season, his first as a full-time starter in the NFL.

NFL's best. Two of them, Orlando Pace of St. Louis and Walter Jones of Seattle, were kept off the market this year — Jones re-signed with the Seahawks and Pace was protected as the Rams' franchise player.

The Rams added their second free-agent linebacker in two days on Thursday, signing Chris Claiborne to a three-year, \$10.5 million contract. Claiborne, a middle linebacker, joins outside linebacker Dexter Coakley in the Rams' restocked defense. Coakley got a five-year, \$14.5 million deal.

Oakland signed running back LaMont Jordan, who had been Curtis Martin's backup with the Jets. Jordan, whose 479 yards rushing were more than the Raiders' leading rusher last season, got \$11 million guar-anteed in a contract that will pay him \$27.5 million over five years.

Another free agent, Reggie Hayward, was rewarded for being able to do what Jennings is getting paid to prevent — rush the passer. Hayward was introduced by Jacksonville after signing a five-year, \$25 million deal

Hayward led Denver last season with 101/2 sacks despite being only a part-time player at the start of the season. With Jacksonville, he will play alongside one of the NFL's best defensive tackle tandems: John Henderson and Marcus Stroud.

"He's an ascending player, and we believe his best football is ahead of him," coach Jack Del Rio said. "With the presence we have inside with Marcus and Big John, we believe Reggie will help take our defense to another level '

In other moves:

- Tight end Marcus Pollard was released by Indianapolis, saving the Colts \$2.65 million in salary cap space. He is second in Colts history to Hall of Famer John Mackey for catches by a tight end with 263.
- Cleveland signed guard Joe Andruzzi, starter on all three of New England's Super Bowl winners, to a four-year, \$9 million deal that reunites him with new Browns coach Romeo Crennel, the former Patriots defensive coordinator.
- Minnesota solidified its defense by signing nose tackle Pat Williams late Wednesday. His presence will free up third-year tackle Kevin Williams, a Pro Bowl selection last season, from double teams
- Cincinnati re-signed wide receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh, who was a highly regarded free agent. Houshmandzadeh caught 73 passes for 978 yards and four touchdowns.
- Houston signed linebacker Morlon Greenwood, who started for Miami, to a five-year, \$22.5 million deal and re-signed defensive tackle Seth Payne one of the players the Texans chose in the expansion draft before their first season in 2002.

Army vet McCune fit for duty

NFL prospect knows the difference between football and battle

BY MICHAEL MAROT The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS - When Robert McCune hears football players talk about going to war, he just shakes his head. Three years of Army service taught him that football is a game, war a battle for

McCune lived on military bases in five states and was deployed to South Korea and Kuwait. He's heard the crackle of nearby gunfire and camped on a roof during a monsoon. He spent days refuel-ing military vehicles and free moments lifting a 50-pound rock.

McCune endured it all so he could keep playing football. His Army buddies found that funny. "I told them that after this I was

going to go to college and get my degree, I was going to play foot-ball, and they laughed," he said. Now the linebacker might be

close to playing in the NFL. Mc-Cune, among the 332 players invited to this year's combine, will be 26 by the time of the April draft, and he might be the oldest player selected.

ball player, you don't worry about it " Houston Tevans General Manager Charley Casserly said, "If he's in the development stage, it becomes a concern.

McCune wasn't even offered a Division I-A scholarship when he graduated from LeFlore High School in Mobile, Ala. He had hoped to play in college at Alabama or Auburn, but the only offers came from places like Alabama A&M, Alabama State, Southern University and Grambling.

So McCune joined the Army in

"My plan was to go into the military, grow up and walk on at some Division I school," he said. During the next three years, he lived in Fort Lee, Va.; Fort Stewart, Ga.: Fort Hood, Texas: Fort Knox, Ky.; and Fort Irwin, Calif. The training regimen included

4-mile runs, pushups and situps. When he went to South Korea for one year as a patrolling spe-cialist, McCune improvised. He used his fueling truck rig as a pul-

weightlifting. Between missions, McCune found just enough time to pull out the sharp-edged rock for a workout "I'd sit on ton of the truck and

do curls over my head until they came," he said. "I was in Korea for 365 days, and I'd say I worked out 340 days.

McCune learned to deal with the odor of raw sewage and poor living conditions, but wasn't prepared for monsoon season. One night, with his barracks covered in about 7 feet of water, he scrambled onto a roof and spent the night there as lightning lit the sky.

"I didn't think the rain was ever going to end," he said. "I was trying to think of a plan of what to

During a six-month tour in Kuwait, McCune and the Americans rarely met the locals. Occasionally. McCune was awakened by gunfire, unsure where the shots came from.

McCune finished his active duty in 2000. When he returned home, he pursued his football dream despite a five-year commit-ment to the National Guard. Some coaches were warv, knowing he might miss practices But he persuaded John L.

Smith, then-coach of Louisville, to let him play as a walk-on, and he used the G.I. Bill to pay for his first semester. By the second semester, he had earned a scholar-

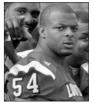
In March 2003, he nearly had to leave football again. McCune's Guard unit was alerted that it might be deployed to Iraq. He was sent to Fort Knox for training, missed part of spring football and worried he might miss part

"It was tough because I had been selected captain, and my coaches expected a lot out of me," he said. "They told me not to worry, that my spot would still be there when I got back. I missed about two or three months of school, but everything ended up working out. We weren't called

up. It just made me appreciate

football that much more.

or all of his junior season.



Robert McCune, who lived on military bases in five states and was deployed to South Korea and Kuwait. made a team-high 143 tackles for Louisville in 2003.

McCune finished 2003 with a team-high 143 tackles, including four sacks.

This past December, after finshing his Louisville career with 320 tackles, McCune completed his military service with the rank of corporal in time to start preparing for the NFL combine. He also

earned a degree in education. Some scouts wonder if the 6-foot, 245-pound McCune is big enough to play inside linebacker in the NFL, but no one has questioned his commitment or work

SPORTS

Bryant, accuser settle civil suit

NBA star reaches deal to end sexual assault case; terms undisclosed

BY JON SARCHE The Associated Press

DENVER — With a terse news release and an even terser court filing, the sordid sexual assault case against Kobe Bryant that gripped the nation abruptly ended with an agreement that ensures the NBA star never goes to trial for what happened in a hotel room two years ago.

Few experts believed the civil lawsuit would ever be heard by a jury, saying it was unlikely that Bryant and the 20-year-old woman who accused him of raping her relished the prospect of having to divulge potentially embarrassing, intimate details in a courtroom.

The case tarnished both Bryant, 27, arguably the NBA's best player, and the woman, a former high school cheerleader who once tried out for "American Idol" and found herself the subject of Internet speculation.

Terms of the settlement were not released. Law experts said the agreement probably spelled out financial penalties for revealing any details.



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant shoots during warmups prior to a game against the Boston Celtics in Boston on Wednesday.

A two-sentence statement faxed to The Associated Press by Bryant's attorneys said only that the matter had been resolved "to the satisfaction of both parties"

"The parties and their attorneys have agreed that no further comments about the matter can or will be made," the statement said. A one-sentence motion for dismissal stipulating that the case can never be refiled was filed simultaneously in Denver federal court.

After a few more days of intense speculation about Wednesday's settlement — how much money, whether any details can ever be released — the case will quickly fade from view, said Denver attorney Scott Rob-

"Ultimately a new scandal, a new public shame will come along and both the plaintiff and the defendant can pretty much go about their lives," he said.

A Los Angeles Lakers spokesman said Bryant had declined comment on the settlement. Bryant scored 26 points Wednesday night in Boston, but the Celtics still beat the Lakers 104-101.

"It's in both parties' interests to have this remain confidential," said Los Angeles at-

torney Steve Cron, who is familiar with celebrity cases. "That's one of the incentives for them to settle: He didn't have to do a deposition, the lurid details wouldn't be posted on some Web site, she didn't have to face the rigors of having a deposition by his lawyers and she'll gain some privacy as well."

The lawsuit, filed three weeks before the criminal case against Bryant collapsed last summer, sought unspecified damages for mental injuries, public scorn and humiliation the woman said she has suffered since their June 2003 encounter at the Vail-area hotel where she worked. The woman hasn't commented publicly on the case.

Bryant, a married father of one, apologized for his "behavior that night and for the consequences she has suffered," but insisted the sex was consensual.

Shortly after jury selection began in the criminal case, prosecutors in Eagle County dropped the single felony sexual assault count after the woman told them she couldn't take part in a trial.

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Off to a good start



Washington Nationals' Jose Guillen, right, is congratulated by teammate Brad Wilkerson after hitting a two-run home run against the New York Mets in the fourth inning of their spring training opener, Wednesday in Viera, Fla. The Nationals won their first game after moving from Montreal, beating the Mets 5-3. For complete spring training coverage, see story on Page 37.



Cowboys, Giants dive into the free-agent pool Page 39



UConn's Calhoun latest to earn 700th victory

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